CHAPTER XI.

LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION.

General Revenue History.

The first historical assessment of land revenue in Tirhut is that made in 1582 by Todar Mal, the great finance minister of Akbar. The result of this assessment was that an area of 817,370 acres in *sarkārs* Hājīpur and Tirhut was settled at a revenue of Rs. 11,63,020, which gives an incidence of about Re. 1-7 per acre. Owing to the changes of jurisdiction which have taken place, it is unfortunately impossible to disentangle the figures for the present district of Darbhangā. During the period, close on 200 years, which elapsed between this assessment and the grant of the *Diwāni* in 1765 to the East India Company, there are two assessments of which we possess statistical knowledge, one made by Shāh Jahān in 1685 and the other in 1750 during the viceroyalty of Alī Vardi Khān. The result of the first assessment was to raise the revenue to Rs. 17,98,576, *i.e.*, by 55 per cent., while it was lowered by Alī Vardi Khān to Rs. 16,48,142. No records can, however, be found of the areas dealt with, so that we are unable to estimate the incidence upon the actual area cultivated at the time they were made. It appears to have been difficult to ascertain what was the actual state of the revenues when we took over the Province in 1765, and various changes were made in the system of revenue administration up to the date of the decennial settlement in 1790, which was made permanent by Lord Cornwallis in 1793. At this settlement an area of 1,584,836 acres was assessed in Tirhut at Rs. 9,83,642, giving an incidence of 9 annas per acre. During subsequent resumption proceedings a further area of 1,066,001 acres was assessed to a revenue of Rs. 6,77,387, making a total of Rs. 16,61,029. The actually permanently settled revenue of Muzaffarpur and Darbhangā at the present time (1906) is Rs. 17,45,924.

Early English Administration.

When the English assumed the government of the country in 1765, they continued the existing system of revenue administration, which the mercantile training of the Company's servants had not qualified them to manage. In 1769 European Supervisors were appointed to control the native officers, and, as it

was realized that the collection of details regarding the internal resources of the country was a matter of the first importance, they were ordered to enquire into the economic conditions prevailing and the general system of administration. The result of these enquiries was to show that "the whole system resolved itself on the part of the public officers into habitual extortion and injustice, which produced on the cultivators the natural consequences, concealment and evasion, by which Government was defrauded of a considerable portion of its just demands." In 1770 a Revenue Council of Control was established at Patna; and next year the Court of Directors sent out their well-known orders "to stand forth as Diwān and by the agency of the Company's servants to take upon themselves the entire care and management of the revenues." The direct control of the revenue administration was, accordingly, entrusted to European officers; but this assumption of direct management having proved a financial failure, the European agency was replaced by native *āmils* under the control of a Provincial Council at Patna. The quinquennial settlement effected in 1772 having also failed to give satisfaction, annual settlements were made from 1778-80 with farmers and zamindārs; and these settlements being equally unsuccessful, Tirhut was for the first time placed under an European Collector in 1782.

The first Collector of Tirhut.

The first Collector of Tirhut was Francois Grand*, whose career deserves at least a brief notice. A native of Lausanne, he was educated in his own country, but was sent in early life to England, where he obtained a cadetship in Bengal. He served in the forces of the East India Company until he obtained a captaincy, and in 1776, while on furlough in Europe, he was nominated to a writership. On his return to India, he married the Danish beauty, Mademoiselle Worlée, who afterwards as Madam Grand became so well known for her liaison with Sir Philip Francis and her subsequent marriage with Talleyrand. In 1779 Grand brought an action against Francis for misconduct with his wife, and was awarded damages amounting to Rs. 50,000 by the Judges Impey, Chambers and Hyde. He then obtained a divorce, and in 1782 was appointed Collector of Tirhut, where he engaged in, and practically founded, the indigo industry. He quickly began to make a fortune, but in 1787 Lord Cornwallis, hearing of his commercial enterprises, removed him from Tirhut. He was appointed Judge and Magistrate at Patna, warned to give up his indigo concerns, and ultimately removed from the

* This sketch of this adventurer is based on the article on Grand in Buckland's Dictionary of Indian Biography.

service. After this, Grand returned to Europe and made his way to France, where his former wife had married Talleyrand and risen to the position of Princesse de Benevento. Through the influence of Talleyrand, he obtained from the Batavian Republic in 1802 the post of Privy Councillor to the Government of the Cape of Good Hope; and later when the country passed to the British, he took service under them, with an easy adaptability which seems to have been natural to him. He was appointed Inspector of Woods and Lands, married again, and died at the Cape in 1821.

The foregoing sketch sufficiently indicates the character of the first Collector of Tirhut, a foreign adventurer with few scruples and but little sense of honour. The following report written by him in 1785 is of some interest as giving an insight into the state of the country and his method of exercising at one and the same time his administrative and commercial abilities: "In 1782 I was transferred by Mr. Hastings from Head Assistant to a commercial factory (in which the duties consisted of prizing cloths, seeing saltperte weighed or loaded, attending to the accounts, etc.) to the Government of two considerable provinces involving the settlement or collection of revenues and maintenance of justice: the provinces were Tirhut and Hajipur. I took possession of a country yielding a revenue of above seven lakhs of rupees, but which had suffered from the depredations committed by those who were compelled to abandon the charge to me, and had besides been in revolt owing to the intrigues of the Raja of Benares, Chet Singh, whose baneful influence had spread so far and would have spread further had he not been checked in time by Mr. Hastings' wise and spirited measures. I recovered a large balance due from the farmers to Government, quieted and appeased without bloodshed every disturbance, brought back the disobedient to a just sense of their errors, augmented the revenue, introduced the manufacturing of indigo after the European manner, encouraged the establishment of indigo works and plantations, erected three at my own expense, and thus possessed a fortune of £15,000 sterling, looked forward to a proportionate augmentation by continuing in my station and extending my manufactories, which with my houses, lands, furniture, tents, equipages, horses, boats, stood upon a valuation of £10,000 more."

This extract shows the high opinion Grand had of his own abilities, but the protest he made when removed from Tirhut displays even more clearly his inordinate self-conceit. In this he wrote:—"On the 26th August 1787 I was in full possession of

my appointment, and my fortune was in that progressive state as described in 1785. I was in the enjoyment of every comfort, elegance and luxury of life. I was beloved and respected by those living with me, and I will say, because I challenge the contrary to be proved, almost vernerated by the natives of every description under my government, whose tears on hearing of my removal accompanied me even from the place of my residence to the bank of the Ganges, where the limits of the district ceased, a distance of 25 miles. On the 27th August 1787, by one stroke of His Lordship's pen, was Mr. Robert Bathurst nominated Collector of Tirhut and Hajipur, and thus every hope and fair-built prospect existing on the preceding day completely blasted. Thus the blow was struck, and from that day I fell, perhaps never more to rise. View the portrait and feel!"

Early settlements.

The history of revenue administration from 1781 onwards is marked by yearly settlements with zamindárs, and, if they were recusant, with farmers. The correspondence of the period is full of the difficulties the Collector had to meet both in settling and realizing the revenue. Himself ignorant of the capabilities of the soil, his subordinates were a hindrance rather than a help; and the enormous number of petty proprietors, for which the district was even then notorious, made a fair settlement a very difficult task, as they quarrelled and haggled over every detail. The only large proprietor, Rájá Madhu Singh of Darbhangá, contumaciously refused all terms, and did his best, by intimidating the farmers, to prevent them taking settlement of his estates or from collecting rents, if they did take settlement. Imperfect as was the assessment made under such circumstances, the difficulties of collecting it were aggravated by the lawless state of the country, which was infested by bands of robbers, who were generally in collusion with the native *ámils* and did not hesitate on occasion to molest even the European servants of the Company. To the trouble caused by depredating land-owners and contumacious Rájás was added that caused by unfavourable seasons, as scarcely a year passed without the record of some natural calamity. In one year it was drought, in the next it was flood, but in either case the result was the same, settlement holders unwilling to fulfil their engagements without extreme coercion.

Permanent Settlement.

The history of Tirhut from this time forward until the declaration of the Permanent Settlement discloses persistent and more or less systematic attempts to acquire information regarding the capabilities of the soil, the relations of landlord and tenant, their status, and similar matters of rural economy; but the methods of enquiry were not sufficiently detailed to afford an

adequate basis for a settlement in perpetuity. Accordingly, when the decennial settlement was declared permanent in 1793, no less than three-fifths of the area of Tirhut escaped assessment. The revenue actually fixed was, however, 15 per cent. more than in 1787; and the basis of assessment was more accurate than in Bengal, as the facilities for obtaining information were greater and the organization of village officials was still effective. The result was that, whereas in Bengal the Permanent Settlement served to confirm as zamīndārs and land-owners men who had been mere rent collectors under previous administrations, it served in Tirhut to rescue the real zamīndārs from the farmers of revenue who had been placed over them, and to restore proprietary rights to those who were about to lose them. On the other hand, incalculable injury was done to the ryots by the absence of any accompanying measures for their protection, and by the harsh provisions of Regulation VII of 1799, which extended to the landlords of Tirhut, as well as of the rest of the Province, the power to distrain the crops of their ryots, and in certain cases to arrest their persons for arrears of rent without any reference to the Courts. Whatever justification there may have been in Bengal for enhancing the power of the landlords in this way, there is no indication that such stringent measures were required in Tirhut, where the revenue fixed at the Permanent Settlement was collected with great success, and the number of estates in arrears was never so large as to endanger seriously the Government revenue. The country has, accordingly, suffered up to the present day from the failure of the earlier administrators to gauge adequately the extent of the oppression practised by the landlords of Tirhut upon their unfortunate tenantry. By slow degrees, the Legislature has been signifying by successive enactments its recognition of the rights of the cultivators; but it was not till the recent introduction of survey and settlement proceedings in Darbhangā that the acknowledgment of their rights was brought home to the people themselves.

RESUMPTION PROCEEDINGS.

The principal features in the subsequent revenue history of the district are the resumption of invalid revenue-free grants, the revenue survey of 1843-49, the enormous increase in the number of estates, and the settlement operations of 1892-99. It has already been stated that at the time of the decennial settlement the area of estates assessed to revenue was less than half the area of Tirhut. A large number of estates escaped assessment under the claim that they were revenue-free grants, of which there was an exceptional number in Tirhut. The free grant of land to Brāhmans for their maintenance, for the encouragement of learning, or

for the worship of the gods has always been recognized by Hindus as a becoming act of piety. It is not surprising, therefore, that in Mithilá, whose chief claim to a place in history rests on its former influence as a centre of Hindu religion and learning, rent-free grants to the learned and priestly caste were exceptionally numerous. Mithilá, though swept by the successive inroads of invasion and conquest, still retained much of its ancient power as a stronghold of Hinduism; and this was a characteristic of that religion the least likely to succumb to outside attack. Again, it was customary in the Mughal era to remunerate civil and military subordinates by grants of land; and the remoteness of the district from the centre of the Mughal power rendered it easy for the subordinate officials of the Empire to carve out for themselves *jágirs* and *nankars*. To such an extent did this practice grow that at the final Muhammadan assessment of 1765, more than 5 lakhs, out of a total demand of less than 8 lakhs of rupees, was retained by *jágirdárs* and other revenue-free holders, and never reached Government at all, the chief offender being the officer in charge of the assessment, who secured for himself property yielding a revenue of nearly 1½ lakh of rupees. The effects of the resumption proceedings on the revenue roll of Tirhut were, consequently, almost as important as those of the Permanent Settlement; and as the resumption was carried out with much more care than the Permanent Settlement, it proved to be a task of even greater magnitude. The validity of the claims put forward to such revenue-free grants was carefully examined between 1830 and 1850; and systematic operations were undertaken for the resumption of those grants that proved to be invalid. Their extent can best be judged by the fact that altogether 1,066,000 acres were resumed in Tirhut, the revenue was increased by Rs. 6,77,387, and 3,018 new estates were assessed to revenue. In Darbhangá alone they resulted in an assessment of 928 square miles and in an addition of Rs. 3,60,596 to the revenue of the district.

PARTITION OF ESTATES.

Since that time, advantage has been taken of the law of partition to a most remarkable extent, and by the year 1895 the number of estates on the revenue-roll of Darbhangá and Muzaffarpur was a little under 32,000. In 1790 the estates on the revenue-roll of the whole of Tirhut numbered only 1,331, and the aggregate of estates therefore multiplied nearly thirty-fold in a little over a century. It is true that resumptions helped to swell their number before 1850; but, apart from this, the law of partition was responsible for the addition of over 27,500 estates to the revenue-roll of 1790. Darbhangá accounts for a very large proportion of the

increase. In 1878, when the district revenue-roll was finally separated from that of Muzaffarpur, the number of permanently settled estates was 7,962; there were 10,813 in 1889-90, and 12,400 in 1899-1900; and the number has now risen to 14,183 (1905-06). The corresponding area contained only 532 estates in 1790, and their number has therefore increased twenty-five fold.

Growth of revenue.

The revenue of Darbhangā fixed at the Permanent Settlement was Rs. 5,47,512, but as the large estates of Rājā Madhu Singh were at that time not settled with him, the revenue shown for them was that at which temporary settlements were made with farmers. Little more than a quarter of the total area came under the operations; and nearly two-thirds of the present cultivated area escaped assessment altogether. Five years later the revenue had fallen to a little over 3 lakhs owing to the failure of the farmers to keep their engagements; and it continued to fluctuate in consequence of the temporary leases of Madhu Singh's estates, which were made at varying assessments until 1808. As a result of the resumption proceedings, no less than 45 per cent. of the present permanently settled revenue was added to the roll; but since the creation of the district the fluctuations in the annual demand have been insignificant. It has varied only from Rs. 7,89,093 in 1879 to Rs. 7,90,393 at the present day (1906); and the difference between the present revenue and that of 1795 is, therefore, about 4½ lakhs, of which 3¾ lakhs are accounted for by the resumption proceedings, the difference of 1¼ lakhs being due to the settlement subsequently made with Rājā Madhu Singh. The revenue now fixed is payable by 14,193 estates, of which 14,183 with a demand of Rs. 7,85,632 are permanently settled; and practically all the remainder is accounted for by 8 Government estates, with a demand of Rs. 4,331. Besides these, there are 1,040 revenue-free estates, forming a little more than one-twentieth of the district area.

Incidence of revenue.

The incidence of revenue amounts to only 5 annas 10 pies per acre, and is less than in any other district of North Bihār except Champāran. Nearly one-third of the district was assessed during the resumption proceedings at an average rate of 9¾ annas per acre, and the only conclusion, therefore, is that the rest of the district was very fortunate in securing a light assessment at the time of the Permanent Settlement. The extreme lightness of the Government demand is the more apparent from the fact that the average rent rate of the district is Rs. 3-12-4 per acre, and 80 per cent. of the total area is cultivated. At the Permanent Settlement the Government revenue was fixed so as to allow the zamindārs 10 per cent. of the assets as profits, but they now enjoy 88 per cent.; in other words, the Government revenue

instead of forming nine-tenths of the assets is now only one-ninth of them.

SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

The district was first surveyed in the course of the great revenue survey of Bengal. This survey, which was commenced in 1846 and completed in 1849, showed the area of Tirhut as 6,114 square miles with a land revenue of Rs. 14,62,548 or annas 5-11¾ per acre. It led to the discovery of land still remaining unassessed, but its chief value was that it almost completely put a stop to constant disputes about boundaries, which were a fruitful source of litigation and a serious administrative difficulty. In 1865–68 a survey of the Gangetic *diāras* was undertaken under Act IX of 1847, with a view to the readjustment of revenue rendered necessary by changes in the riparian area. This was the only professional survey which took place before the survey and settlement of 1896–1903. These operations were instituted with the object of protecting adequately the interests of all parties interested in the land. It was realized that for this purpose legislative measures alone were insufficient; that they should be supplemented by the preparation of a full record of rights founded on an accurate survey; and that such a record could alone remove the want of fixity of tenure and put a stop to the arbitrary enhancement of rent from which the ryots in North Bihār suffered.

LANDLORDS.

The result of the operations has been to show that the area occupied by landlords and tenants is 2,871 square miles or 86 per cent. of the total area of the district. The area in the occupation of landlords is 11 per cent. of the whole; and in spite of the fact that a very large portion of it is owned by the Mahārājā of Darbhangā, more than 40,000 proprietary interests and 135,000 proprietors were recorded. In the Madhubanī subdivision there has been little subdivision of proprietary interests, owing to the predominating presence of the Darbhangā Rāj, but elsewhere subdivision has been very minute, and it may fairly be said that there are a host of petty proprietors. The average area in possession of a single proprietor in each village, accordingly, varies from 204 acres in the Phulparās thāna, where the Darbhangā Rāj predominates, to 8 acres in Samastipur, where the proprietor is little more than an ordinary cultivator. There can be no doubt that the increasing subdivision of proprietary rights, which is going on over a large part of the district, has made it necessary for the petty proprietors to resort to direct cultivation to a much greater extent than was formerly the case. Now that little further extension of cultivation is possible, while subdivision of proprietary rights is still going on, the position of many a

petty proprietor must be a serious one. Hitherto he has been able, as a rule, to meet the wants of his growing family and the inevitable subdivision of his property which this entails, partly by ousting his ryots from their lands and taking them into his own cultivation, and partly by raising the cultivators' rents. But the record-of-rights which has now been prepared will, to a large extent, prevent him from resorting to either of these expedients, and many petty proprietors must shortly reach a stage at which they will no longer be able to live on the proceeds of their landed property, and will be forced to take to other avocations. Nor from the ryot's point of view is this altogether to be regretted, for it is a proverb in the district that the small proprietor is the harshest landlord.

So far there is no indication that the land is passing to any extent into the hands of the money-lenders. Nearly half the district is in the hands of large proprietors, and here there is no transfer of proprietary rights; while transfers elsewhere are generally made to persons of the landlord class.

TENURE-HOLDERS.

The area in direct possession of tenure-holders is less than 3 per cent. of the occupied area. Though there are few degrees of subinfeudation, simple tenures play an important part in the agrarian economy of Darbhangá, over one-fifth of the district area being let out to tenure-holders of different kinds. Rent-paying tenures account for 12 per cent. of the total area, and nearly half are of a permanent nature; but these cover only about a seventh of the total area under rent-paying tenures. The rise in the value of land in modern times has rendered proprietors disinclined to alienate their rights permanently, except at excessive rates or on payment of a very high *salámi*; and most of the permanent tenures are of ancient date.

Permanent tenures.

Temporary tenures are most numerous in the Samástipur subdivision, where considerably more than three-fifths of the area comprised by them is held by indigo factories. In the district, as a whole, it is satisfactory to find that more than half the area held under temporary tenures is in possession of indigo planters, who, as a rule, are considerate landlords and do not tamper with rents. This leaves less than 100,000 acres, or little more than one twenty-fifth of the total area of the district, in the hands of ordinary temporary tenure-holders or *thikádárs*, many of whom are mere rent speculators, whose one object is to make as much as they can out of the village during the term of their lease. As, however, the area in their possession is so small, their powers for evil are comparatively limited. The majority of the tenures are simple farming leases, only 43 per cent. being given as security for loans.

Temporary tenures.

A description of these mortgages has already been given in the preceding chapter.

Rent-free tenures.

Rent-free tenures are much more important in Darbhangā than in any other district in North Bihār, covering, as they do, about one-tenth of the total area. The most numerous are those granted for religious purposes, which account for more than three-quarters of the whole number, but cover little more than a quarter of the total area under rent-free tenures. Nearly three-fifths of the total area is found in the three thānas of Madhubanī, Phulparās and Khajaulī, where the large proportion is due to the maintenance grants given by the Mahārājās of Darbhangā to their relations in accordance with the custom of the family. The holders of such grants are allowed to hold the land rent-free subject to the payment of the Government revenue to the Mahārājā, but the grants revert to the Rāj on the death of the grantee without male heirs. Service tenures cover an insignificant area, most of the land held in this way belonging to petty village officials, such as *barāhils* and *goraits*, who cultivate themselves. *Mālikānā* tenures, consisting of lands held rent-free in perpetuity by former proprietors of the village, are also of little importance.

Under-tenures.

Under-tenures cover less than 2 per cent of the total area of the district. They are most numerous in the Khajaulī thāna, and are mainly sub-leases granted by the Madhubanī Bābus, who are themselves maintenance-holders under the Darbhangā Rāj. In the south, where great subdivision of proprietary rights prevails, both tenures and sub-tenures are comparatively unimportant, for the area held by each proprietor is so small that he cannot afford to sublet his rights in it.

Tenants.

There are less than 5,000 ryots at fixed rates, and they hold only a little over 10,000 acres; this low percentage being due to the large enhancements of rates which has taken place during the last century.

Occupancy Ryots.

Nine-tenths of the occupied holdings and over four-fifths of the occupied area belong to settled or occupancy ryots. In the Madhubanī subdivision the area and proportion of holdings held by occupancy ryots are still higher than this. Here the average size of their holdings is over two acres; but in the rest of the district the larger area in the direct cultivation of proprietors and tenure-holders leaves less room for the ryots, and the average size of such holdings is only about 1½ acres. From special enquiries made during the last settlement it was found that a little over 6 per cent. of the occupancy holdings and only 2½ per cent. of the area held by occupancy ryots were affected by sales or mortgages with possession. Taking the district

as a whole, it is satisfactory to find that four-fifths of the transferees are ryots, and that only a little over 11 per cent. are money-lenders. The latter class is most numerous in the head-quarters and Samāstipur subdivisions, where there are an exceptional number of petty proprietors, who are very often practically indistinguishable from ryots. In no part of the district are there any signs that land is passing to any considerable extent into the hands of profesional money-lenders to the detriment of the actual cultivators.

Non-occupancy ryots.

Non-occupancy ryots cultivate little more than a half per cent. of the occupied holdings. Except in Madhubanī, the average size of their holdings is greater than that of occupancy ryots, owing to the fact that certain indigo factories in Darbhangā and Samāstipur hold considerable areas as non-occupancy ryots.

Under-ryots.

Under-ryots are an unimportant class, cultivating only 32,491 acres or little more than 2 per cent. of the ryoti area. Less than 7 per cent. of ryoti holdings are sublet, and most of these are only sublet in part. The average size of an under-ryot's holding is only a little over half an acre. There is thus no indication that ryoti interests are being acquired by non-agriculturists and sublet to the actual cultivators. The largest proportion of under-ryots is found in the Samāstipur subdivision, where indigo factories often hold land under this status on the *kurtauli* leases mentioned in the last chapter. Elsewhere, the under-ryot usually takes up for a short time some portion of a holding, which the original ryot is unable to cultivate entirely himself.

Jāidādi tenancy.

The only peculiar tenancy in Darbhangā is that known as *jāidādi* (from *jāidād*, a crop), which is found in the Baherā thāna. In the *chaurs* or marshes which are characteristic of this part of the district, a crop can only be grown in an exceptionally dry year; and the cultivators of such lands pay rent only in the year in which a crop is grown, and only for such areas as produce a crop. These areas are measured at the time of harvest and pay either a cash rent at a rate previously agreed upon or a produce rent. For areas in which the crop, though sown, has been destroyed by floods, no rent is charged. These tenures resemble the *ulbandi* tenures found elsewhere in Bengal, and at the last settlement the ryot was held not to have occupancy rights in such lands, unless he had held them continuously for 12 years.

CHAPTER XII.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES AND STAFF.

THE administration of the district is in charge of the Collector under the Commissioner of the Patna Division, and for general administrative purposes it is divided into three subdivisions with head-quarters at Darbhangā (Laheriā Sarai), Madhubanī and Samāstipur. The head-quarters subdivision is under the direct supervision of the Collector, while each of the other two subdivisions is in charge of a Subdivisional Officer exercising the powers of a Deputy Collector in revenue matters. At Darbhangā the Collector is assisted by a staff of Deputy Collectors consisting generally of five officers. In addition to this staff, there are two officers engaged on special work, viz., a Special Deputy Collector in charge of excise and a Sub-Deputy Collector employed on partition work. A Sub-Deputy Collector employed in the general line is also usually posted there, and occasionally a Joint Magistrate and an Assistant Collector. Each of the Subdivisional Officers of Madhubanī and Samāstipur is assisted by a Sub-Deputy Collector.

REVENUE.

The revenue of the district under the main heads was Rs. 14,30,000 in 1880-81 (when the income-tax had not been imposed), Rs. 18,18,000 in 1890-91, and Rs. 19,60,000 in 1901. In 1905-06 it amounted to Rs. 21,77,000, of which Rs. 7,90,000 were derived from land revenue, the other main heads of income being cesses (Rs. 5,47,000), excise (Rs. 3,94,000), stamps (Rs. 3,85,000) and income-tax (Rs. 61,000).

Cesses.

The road and public works cesses are, as usual, levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee. The current demand in 1905-06 was Rs. 4,95,440, the greater part of which (Rs. 4,61,880) was payable by 17,958 revenue-paying estates, while practically all the remainder was due from 1,040 revenue-free estates. The number of tenures assessed to cesses was 17,359, and there are thus nearly as many tenures as estates in the district; while the number of recorded shareholders of estates and tenures was 84,309 and 23,903 respectively.

The excise revenue is, as usual, derived from imported liquors, country spirits, *tāri*, opium, and the duty and license fees on hemp drugs. A statement of the various exciseable articles and of the sums realized from them in the decade 1893-1902 is given in the Statistical Appendix, from which it will be apparent that the income from this source rose from 2 lakhs in 1892-93 to 3 lakhs in 1900-01. Since that year there has been a steady growth in the receipts, and in 1904-05 they amounted to Rs. 3,72,000, the increase during the quinquennium being over 23 per cent. The increase was considerably above the average for the Patna Division, and the annual incidence of the excise revenue rose from anna 1-5 to anna 1-9 per head of the population; it was still, however, lower than in any other Bihār district. In 1905-06 the total receipts were even greater, amounting in all to nearly Rs. 3,94,000.

Drinking in Bengal is largely indulged in by Hindī-speaking races, aborigines and mixed tribes, and consumption also varies inversely with the proportion of Muhammadans in the district. Darbhangā is a Hindī-speaking district, but the number of Muhammadans and men of aboriginal descent is small. The result is that the people, as a whole, are not hard drinkers, and the amount spent on liquor is smaller in proportion to the population than anywhere else in Bihār. The greater portion of the excise revenue is derived from the sale of country spirit, which is prepared by distillation from the flower of the *mahuā* tree (*Bassia latifolia*) and molasses, and of the fermented palm juice called *tāri*. These receipts amounted in 1905-06 to Rs. 2,61,000, a figure representing an expenditure of only Rs. 896 for every 10,000 of the population as compared with the Divisional average of Rs. 1,910. The manufacture and sale of country spirit are carried on under what is known as the dual system, *i.e.*, there is a central distillery at Darbhangā and outstills for the supply of the rest of the district. The average consumption of outstill liquor is 14 and of distillery liquor 37 proof gallons per thousand of the population, the incidence of taxation per head of the population being 9 pies and 2 annas, respectively. There are 17 shops for the sale of distillery liquor and 84 selling outstill liquor, *i.e.*, one retail shop for the sale of country spirit to every 28,837 persons; and besides these, there are 1,080 shops licensed to sell *tāri* or one shop to every 2,696 persons.

The receipts from hemp drugs account for nearly the whole of the remaining excise revenue, and are greater than in any other district in the Division, except Shāhābād. In 1905-06 they

amounted to Rs. 1,20,000, all of which was obtained from the duty and license fees on *gānja*, *i.e.*, the dried flowering tops of the cultivated female hemp plant (*Cannabis sativa*) and the resinous exudation on them. Only Rs. 10,700 are derived from the consumption of opium, and Rs. 1,400 from the license fees on imported liquors. The latter have found no favour with the mass of the population, both because they are unable to afford them, and because they prefer the country spirit and *tāri* they have drunk for generations past.

Stamps. The revenue from stamps ranks next in importance as a source of income to that derived from excise. During the ten years ending in 1905-06 it increased enormously, rising from Rs. 2,16,000 to Rs. 3,85,000. The increase is mainly due to the growing demand for judicial stamps, which brought in Rs. 3,07,000, as compared with Rs. 1,45,000 in 1895-96; the receipts from this source have thus been doubled in the last ten years. The sale of court-fee stamps, which in 1905-06 realized Rs. 2,80,000, is by far the most important item in the receipts from judicial stamps. Among non-judicial stamps, impressed stamps account for Rs. 73,600 or nearly the whole of the receipts under this head.

The sale of court-fee stamps grew by nearly 80 per cent. in the quinquennium ending in 1904-05, an increase greater than in any other Bihār district. The increase in their sale has been caused by the general growth of litigation which has occurred since the completion of the survey and settlement operations. The sale of impressed stamps, on the other hand, did not increase, and the total receipts during the quinquennium were slightly less than in the preceding 5 years. This small decrease is possibly due to the fact that land was not so much in demand as in the previous quinquennium, in which famine prevailed, driving many of the poorer classes to the money-lender.

Income-tax. From the Statistical Appendix it will be observed that in 1901-02 the income-tax yielded altogether Rs. 71,370 paid by 2,583 assessees, of whom 1,739 paying Rs. 19,690 had incomes of Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000. At that time the minimum income assessable was Rs. 500, but this was raised in 1903 to Rs. 1,000 per annum, and the number of assessees consequently fell in 1903-04 to 993, the net collections being Rs. 60,650. In 1905-06 the amount collected was Rs. 61,000 paid by 988 assessees. Of these, 161, paying Rs. 29,000, are inhabitants of Darbhangā town, where the incidence of the tax is under a third of an anna per head of the population. The realizations are chiefly on account of grain and money-lending, the renting of houses and trade.

Registration.

There are 9 offices for the registration of assurances under Act III of 1877. At Muzaffarpur the Special Sub-Registrar deals, as usual, with the documents presented there, and assists the District Magistrate, who is *ex-officio* Registrar, in supervising the proceedings of the Rural Sub-Registrars who are in charge of the other registration offices. The marginal statement shows the number of documents registered and the receipts and expenditure at each office in 1905. The average number of documents registered annually during the quinquennium ending in 1904 was 27,262 as against 27,938 in the preceding 5 years, the decrease amounting to 2·4 per cent. The cause of this decrease is partly that famine and distress in the previous quinquennium led to the registration of an exceptionally large number of documents, and partly that in the course of the settlement operations the zamíndárs in many cases took *kabuliyats* from their ryots to secure proof of the rents payable by them.

NAME.	Documents registered.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
		Rs.	Rs.
Darbhangá	5,440	6,882	3,860
Baheri	2,480	2,600	1,440
Benipatti	2,887	2,547	1,378
Dalsingh Sarai	2,923	3,822	1,349
Madhubani	4,543	4,579	1,808
Narahia	4,390	5,004	2,010
Rosera	2,315	2,766	1,130
Samastipur	4,018	4,508	1,831
Warisnagar	1,929	1,851	1,002
Total ...	34,967	35,073	15,808

Administration of Justice.

Until 1906 Darbhangá was included in the jurisdiction of the District and Sessions Judge of Muzaffarpur; but it has now been constituted a civil district and sessions division under a separate *District* and *Sessions Judge*, with *head-quarters* at Darbhangá.

Civil Justice.

The judicial staff entertained for the administration of civil justice consists of the District Judge and 8 Munsifs, of whom three hold their courts at Darbhangá, three at Samástipur and two at Madhubaní. Statistics of the civil work will be found in the Statistical Appendix, from which it will be seen that the number of cases tried by the Civil Courts rose from 4,559 in 1893 to 18,605 in 1902. This increase is due to the greater number of suits for arrears of rent, which amounted to 15,243 in 1902, as against an average of between 3,000 and 4,000 per annum prior to the year 1900. A special enquiry was made on the subject by the Special Judge appointed under the Tenancy Act; and the conclusions arrived at by him were that, although there had been some dissatisfaction on the part of the landlords with the rates of rent fixed by the Settlement Department, the increase was due chiefly to other facts, viz., that ryots withheld

rent while the operations were in progress, in order to ascertain what rates would be settled, and that the landlords now have a record on which they can safely rely, in order to prove the relationship of landlords and tenants, whereas previously they were deterred from litigation by the fear that the papers filed by them would not be accepted as trustworthy by the Courts. The number of such suits has continued to increase, and in 1904, out of 21,460 civil suits disposed of by the Munsifs, no less than 18,000 were rent-suits.

Criminal Justice.

Criminal justice is administered by the District and Sessions Judge, the District Magistrate and the various Deputy and Sub-Deputy Magistrates at the head-quarters and subdivisional stations. The sanctioned staff at Darbhangā consists, in addition to the District Magistrate, of four Deputy Magistrates of the first class and one Deputy Magistrate of the second or third class. Besides these officers, an Assistant Magistrate and one or two Sub-Deputy Magistrates exercising second or third class powers are generally posted there. The Subdivisional Officers at Madhubanī and Samāstipur are almost invariably officers vested with first class powers, and they are usually assisted by Sub-Deputy Magistrates of the second class. There are also benches of Honorary Magistrates at Darbhangā (8 members), Madhubanī (9 members) Rusera (11 members) and Samāstipur (3 members), all of which exercise second class powers. In all, there are 31 Honorary Magistrates, of whom nine are authorized to sit singly.

Statistics showing the work of the Criminal Courts will be found in the Statistical Appendix; and it will be sufficient to observe that the only district in North Bihār which showed an increase in criminal cases during the 5 years ending in 1904-05 was Darbhangā, in which the greater part of the survey operations were conducted during this period, and in which the leading zamīndārs at first showed a tendency to repudiate the decisions of the Settlement Officers.

Crime.

An account has been given in Chapter II of the lawless state of the country when it first passed under British rule. It was overrun by predatory hordes of banditti, and was infested by bands of robbers. This state of affairs has long since ceased, and dacoities are few in number, while robberies are very rare, those which do occur being generally of a technical kind; in the 5 years ending in 1904 only 2 dacoities and 10 robberies were committed. The people are peaceful and law-abiding as a rule, and serious offences and crimes of violence are the exception. Riots, connected with land disputes or with disputes arising out of

cattle trespass or questions of irrigation, occasionally occur; but their number has fallen off remarkably since the completion of the survey and settlement operations. In the 5 years 1895–99 Darbhangā shared with Shāhābād the unenviable position of having more riots committed within its borders than any other district of the Patna Division, but in the next quinquennium the number of riots was less than in any of those districts, the annual average number of cases falling from 68 to 27. As in other parts of Bihār, thefts and burglaries are the commonest forms of crime. Burglary is especially common, and in the quinquennium ending in 1904 the number of burglaries in Darbhangā was greater than in any other district of the Division, except Patna and Gayā. The soft mud walls of the houses, the weary sleep of the inmates, the negligence, and often the acquiescence, of the village *chaukīdār* combine, with the adroitness of the burglar to render his task an easy one and his arrest a comparatively rare occurrence. Further, the property stolen generally consists of brass utensils, trumpery ornaments, clothing, grain or cash; and when the same pattern prevails over the whole of the district, the identification of the property is as difficult as the concealment of it is easy.

Police.

For police purposes the district is divided into 10 thānas or police circles, viz., Darbhangā, Baherā and Ruserā, in the head-quarters subdivision; Madhubanī, Benīpatī, Khajaulī and Phulparās, in the Madhubanī subdivision; and Samāstipur, Dalsīngh Sarai and Wārisnagar, in the Samāstipur subdivision. Besides these, there are 10 independent out-posts and 2 beat-houses, and there are thus 22 centres for the investigation of crime. The machinery employed for the protection of person and property consists of the regular or district police, including the town police, and of the rural force or village watch. The former consisted in 1905 of the District Superintendent of Police, 5 Inspectors, 37 Sub-Inspectors, 1 Sergeant, 32 head-constables and 416 constables; and the latter of 289 *dafadārs* and 4,530 *chaukīdārs*. The cost of the regular force was Rs. 1,03,000, and there was one policeman to every 6·7 square miles and to every 5,919 persons, as compared with the average of 4½ square miles and 3,194 persons for the whole of the Patna Division.

Jails.

There is a district jail at Darbhangā and a subsidiary jail at each of the outlying subdivisional head-quarters of Madhubanī and Samāstipur. For a short time the subsidiary jail at Samāstipur was affiliated to the Muzaffarpur District Jail, but this arrangement did not work well and was given up some years ago. The jail at Darbhangā has accommodation for 355 prisoners,

distributed as follows:—barracks without separate sleeping accommodation are provided for 244 male convicts, 15 female convicts, 16 juvenile convicts, 22 undertrial prisoners, and 7 civil prisoners; the hospital holds 33 persons; and there are separate cells for 2 Europeans and 16 male convicts. The subsidiary jail at Madhubani has accommodation for 9 male and 3 female prisoners of all classes, and that at Samastipur for 23 prisoners of all classes. The total daily average number of prisoners confined in the district jail in 1905 was 221, of whom 7 only were females; in the Madhubani sub-jail 12; and in the Samastipur sub-jail 7.

CHAPTER XIII

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

OUTSIDE municipal areas, the administration of local affairs is vested in the District Board and in the Local Boards, which have been constituted for the subdivisions of Madhubanī and Samastipur. The District Board is responsible for the maintenance of roads, bridges and road-side rest-houses, and has the general superintendence of primary and middle class schools. It is also entrusted with the management of public ferries, the control over dispensaries, the provision of a proper water-supply, and village sanitation. To the Local Boards, which work in subordination to it, have been delegated the management of pounds and the administration of the sums allotted for the construction and repair of village roads.

THE DISTRICT BOARD.

The District Board was created in 1887 and consists of 25 members, of whom 12 are elected by the Local Boards, 8 are nominated and 5 are *ex-officio* members, viz., the Civil Surgeon, the senior Assistant Collector, the Road Cess Deputy Collector, the Deputy Inspector of Schools, and the District Magistrate, who is *ex-officio* Chairman. The Statistical Appendix shows, for the ten years 1892-93 to 1901-02, the principal sources from which it derives its income, and the objects on which it is spent; and it will suffice here to say that its average annual income during the decade was Rs. 3,57,000, of which Rs. 2,05,000 were derived from Provincial rates, while the average expenditure was Rs. 3,47,000, of which Rs. 1,85,000 were spent on civil works, Rs. 28,000 on education, and Rs. 5,000 on medical relief. During the quinquennium 1895-96 to 1899-1900 the average annual income was Rs. 3,47,000, and the expenditure Rs. 3,09,000, and in the next five years they were Rs. 3,60,000 and Rs. 3,10,000, respectively. It is the richest District Board in the Patna Division, and its income in the last quinquennium was 2 lakhs more than that of any other District Board in Bihar.

In 1904-05 the Board had an opening balance of Rs. 1,43,700, and its income from all other sources was Rs. 4,29,000. The

expenditure in the same year was Rs. 3,49,000. Here, as elsewhere, the Provincial rates form the principal source of income, bringing in over 2½ lakhs; but the incidence of taxation is very light, amounting to only 1 anna 5 pies per head of the population. By far the largest portion of the income of the District Board is spent on civil works, *i.e.*, the extension and maintenance of communications, the up-keep of staging bungalows, the construction of buildings, and the provision of a proper water-supply. Altogether 2 lakhs were expended on these works in 1905-06, of which over three-fourths was spent on the construction, improvement and repairs of roads. The immediate administration of the roads is vested in the District Engineer, and that officer is also responsible for the management and repair of the dāk bungalow at Laheriā Sarai, 8 inspection houses, and other buildings belonging to the District Board. The Board also controls 113 ferries and 83 pounds, which are generally leased out to the highest bidder. The receipts from the latter source decreased from Rs. 6,712 in 1899-1900 to Rs. 6,158 in 1904-05; but on the other hand the revenue from ferries rose from Rs. 29,027 to Rs. 58,283. This large increase is due to better settlements and the acquisition of new ferries; but with an expanding railway system and with the construction of new bridges it can scarcely be sustained.

After civil works, education constitutes the heaviest charge on the resources of the District Board, entailing an expenditure of Rs 50,000, or nearly one-seventh of its total expenditure, in 1905-06. There is an inspecting staff of 7 Sub-Inspectors of Schools and 14 Inspecting Pandits, subordinate to the Deputy Inspector of Schools, and it maintains 1 Middle school and aids four others, besides aiding 1 Industrial school, 20 Upper Primary and 1,087 Lower Primary schools. It also awards scholarships tenable at the Bihār School of Engineering, and pays the stipend of a student at the Bengal Veterinary College at Belgāchia.

For the relief of sickness, it maintains 8 dispensaries, and aids four others; and when cholera breaks out in the interior, it despatches native doctors with medicines to the affected villages. The sanitary work done by the District Board is of a somewhat varied character. It includes preventive measures against plague, cholera, and other epidemics, sanitary arrangements at fairs, the construction, repair, and improvement of wells, and experiments in village sanitation, such as the clearance of jungle, the excavation of drains, and the filling up of hollows containing stagnant water. During 1905-06 it spent 4·2 per cent. of its ordinary income on medical relief and sanitation. It also

contributes towards the maintenance of the veterinary dispensary which is kept up by the municipality at Laheriā Sarai, and maintains a staff of Veterinary Assistants for the benefit of the rural population, these officers being deputed, when necessary, to cope with outbreaks of epidemic disease in the interior.

It is reported that the District Board administers the duties entrusted to it satisfactorily and without friction. The members evince great interest in their work, and are always ready with valuable suggestions and advice. In particular, they are especially useful in making known the wants of their part of the district, in supervising repairs to the roads, and in controlling the working of the dispensaries and pounds.

LOCAL BOARDS.

Subject to the control of the District Board, the Local Boards of Madhubanī and Samāstipur have jurisdiction over each of the subdivisions of the same name. There was formerly a Sadar Local Board for the head-quarters subdivision, but it was abolished some years ago, and the functions it discharged were transferred to the District Board. The Local Board of Madhubanī consists of 11 members, and the Local Board of Samāstipur of 8 members; the system of election which obtains in many Bengal districts has not been introduced, and the members of each Local Board are nominated, with the exception of one *ex-officio* member, the Subdivisional Officer, who is its Chairman. The duties of the Local Boards are confined to the management of village roads and pounds and village sanitation; and their chief duty is to maintain in an efficient state of repair the roads made over to them. The average expenditure in Madhubanī is Rs. 6,700 and in Samāstipur Rs 11,500 per annum.

MUNICIPALITIES.

There are four municipalities in the district, viz., Darbhangā, Madhubanī, Rusera, and Samāstipur. The total number of rate-payers is 15,762, out of a total urban population of 98,490, the ratio being 15·8 per cent. as compared with the Divisional average of 18·1 per cent. In all the municipalities taxation assumes the form of a tax on persons; the incidence of taxation varying from 6 annas 6 pies in Ruserā to 10 annas 7 pies in Darbhangā. It is, on the whole, very light, being 10 annas per head of the population as against the Divisional average of 12 annas 11 pies. Statistics of the receipts and expenditure in each municipality during the years 1892-93 to 1901-02 will be found in the Statistical Appendix.

The maintenance of roads, the improvement of drainage, and the provision of an adequate system of conservancy are the chief demands on the municipal income. Steps are being taken to supply these requirements, but of late years the resources of the

municipalities have been strained by plague, which has hindered the execution of these necessary reforms. Still, much has been done recently to supply the principal civic requirements, and at the same time to maintain financial equilibrium. In Darbhangā the former municipal out-door dispensary has been converted into an important in-door hospital, a lady doctor has been entertained, and a veterinary dispensary has been established. A complete drainage scheme, costing nearly two lakhs, has been prepared, and is gradually being carried out; and the sanitation of the town has been considerably improved. In Madhubanī the question of drainage has been taken up, and an important channel has been constructed, which is designed to carry off water, to prevent the accumulation of stagnant pools, and to remove the danger of floods to which the town is exposed. Steps have also been taken to organize a fire-brigade among the municipal employés, and thus avoid the risks of fire. The Rusera Municipality has had the town surveyed and a complete record of municipal government prepared; and in Samastipur, where the chief defect at present is the want of a complete system of drainage, levels of the town are being taken with the object of preparing an effective scheme.

Darbhangā.

The Darbhangā Municipality, which was established in 1864, is administered by a Municipal Board consisting of 22 Commissioners, of whom 14 are elected, 4 are nominated, and 4 are *ex-officio* members. The area within municipal limits is 7 square miles divided into 7 wards, and the number of rate-payers is 9,785, or 14·7 per cent. of the population. The average income during the five years 1895-96 to 1899-1900 was Rs. 51,960, and the expenditure Rs. 37,870; in the next quinquennium they were Rs. 50,500 and Rs. 41,550, respectively. In 1905-06 the income of the municipality was Rs. 68,000, the chief source of income being a tax on persons, assessed, according to circumstances and property, at 1 per cent. of the income of the assessees. This tax brought in Rs. 22,700; and the total incidence of taxation was 10 annas 7 pies per head of the population. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 55,700, of which 28·5 per cent. was spent on conservancy, 24·8 per cent. on public works, and 17·1 per cent. on medical relief.

Madhubani.

Madhubanī was constituted a municipality in 1869, and has a Municipal Board consisting of 16 members, of whom 10 are elected, 5 are nominated, and one is an *ex-officio* member. The area within municipal limits is 4 square miles divided into 5 wards, and the number of rate-payers is 2,725, or 21·1 per cent. of the total population. The average income during the five years

1895-96 to 1899-1900 was Rs. 17,840, and the expenditure Rs. 13,460; and in the next quinquennium they were Rs. 17,110 and Rs. 12,600 respectively. In 1905-06 the income of the municipality was Rs. 21,380, the principal receipts being Rs. 6,350 realized from a personal tax, assessed, according to circumstances and property, at ¾ per cent. of the income of the assessees; the incidence of taxation was 9 annas 7 pies per head of the population. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 13,800, the principal items being public works, which accounted for 29·1 per cent. of the expenditure, medical relief (28·6 per cent.), and conservancy (14·2 per cent.).

Rusera. Rusera was constituted a municipality in 1869, and has a Municipal Board consisting of 14 Commissioners, all of whom are nominated. The area within municipal limits is 2½ square miles, and the number of rate-payers is 1,806 or 17·6 per cent. of the population. The average income during the five years 1895-96 to 1899-1900 was Rs. 6,015, and the expenditure Rs. 5,210; and in the next quinquennium they were Rs. 6,220 and Rs. 5,520 respectively. In 1905-06 the income of the municipality was Rs. 6,430, of which Rs. 3,030 were realized from a tax levied according to the circumstances and property of the assessees; the incidence of taxation was 6 annas 6 pies per head of the population. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 5,500, of which 23·7 per cent. was spent on medical relief, 21·3 per cent. on general establishment, and 19 per cent. on conservancy.

Samastipur. Samastipur was constituted a municipality in 1897, and has a Municipal Board consisting of 9 Commissioners, of whom two are *ex-officio* members of the Board and the rest are nominated. The area within municipal limits is 1¼ square mile, and the number of rate-payers is 1,446 or 15·8 per cent. of the population. The average income during the 3 years 1897-98 to 1899-1900 was Rs. 4,190, and the expenditure Rs. 3,440; and in the next five years they were Rs. 10,160 and Rs. 9,450 respectively. In 1905-06 the income of the municipality was Rs. 11,150, of which Rs. 4,270 was derived from a tax on persons, assessed, according to their circumstances and property, at 12½ annas per cent. on the income of the assessees; the incidence of taxation was 10 annas 1 pie per head of the population. The expenditure was Rs. 9,440, of which 20·5 per cent. was spent on medical relief, 17·2 per cent. on education, and 17·5 per cent. on conservancy.

CHAPTER XIV.

EDUCATION*.

PROGRESS OF EDUCATION.

THE advance of education among the people has been very rapid since the formation of the district in 1875. In that year there were 201 schools of all classes attended by 4,668 pupils; in 1885 the number of schools had risen to 2,532 and the attendance to 38,958; but there was a decline in the number both of schools and of pupils in the next decade, the former falling in 1895 to 1,456 and the latter to 29,578. They rose again however by the year 1905 to 1,734 and 45,457 respectively: in other words, the number of children receiving instruction has grown by over 50 per cent. during the last ten years, while the schools have increased by nearly 20 per cent., a rate of progress which is sufficiently satisfactory. The percentage of children under instruction to those of school-going age is still, however, only 10·4†, and there is approximately one school to every 2 square miles and to every 2 villages. The supervision of these schools is entrusted to an inspecting staff consisting of a Deputy Inspector of Schools, 5 Sub-Inspectors of Schools, 2 Assistant Sub-Inspectors and 14 Guru Inspectors.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

There is no college in the district. There was only one High school during the first two decades, but the number rose to 5 in 1895 and again to 6 in 1905; and there was a corresponding increase in the number of pupils, which was only 352 at the end of the second decade, but rose to 1,005 in 1895 and to 1,180 in 1905. Of these six schools, four are in Darbhangā town, viz., the Northbrook School, the Darbhangā Rāj School, the Saraswati Academy and the Bengali High English School; and two are situated in the subdivisional head-quarters, Samāstipur and Madhubanī. The Northbrook School has 249 pupils, and is maintained at a cost of Rs. 6,400 a year; the Rāj School has 264 pupils and costs Rs. 5,860 per annum; the Saraswatī Academy has 195 pupils, and

High Schools.

* I am indebted to Mr. W. Billing, Inspector of Schools, Patna Division, for an account of education in Darbhanga from which this chapter has been prepared.

† The proportion of boys under instruction to the total number of boys of school-going age is 20 per cent. and the proportion in the case of girls is a little over 1 per cent.

the annual expenditure amounts to Rs. 3,450; and the Bengali School, which is intended mainly for Bengali pupils and only teaches up to the 4th class of a High English school, as a branch of the Rāj High English School, had 38 pupils on the rolls on the 31st March 1905, the expenditure for the year being Rs. 709. The Watson High English School at Madhubanī, which has 246 pupils, receives a grant-in-aid from Government, and is maintained at an annual cost of Rs. 4,860; while the Samāstipur High English School, which is attended by 188 pupils, is supported by fees only, which amounted in 1905 to Rs. 3,177. The average cost of educating each pupil is Rs. 25·7 per annum in the Zilla school and Rs. 22·2, Rs. 17·6 and Rs. 18·6 respectively in the Rāj School, the Saraswatī Academy and Bengali High English School, which are all private institutions. In Madhubanī, where the High school is aided by Government, the cost is Rs. 19·7, and in the Samāstipur High English School, which is unaided, it is Rs. 16·9 per annum.

Middle English Schools.

The second class of secondary schools consists of the Middle English schools, *i.e.*, schools teaching up to the Middle Scholarship examination, in which English forms part of the recognized course of studies. The number of these schools increased from 6 in 1880 to 7 in 1885, declined to 4 in 1895, but again rose to 8 in 1905. The attendance similarly declined from 666 in 1885 to 323 in 1895, but rose again to 445 in 1905. All the schools of this class are in the interior of the district. One at Samāstipur, though aided by the District Board, is maintained by the municipality; three at Dighrā, Rahikā and Jogiārā are aided by the District Board; and the remaining three at Narhan, Dalsingh Sarai and Tājpur are maintained entirely by the Narhan estate.

Middle Vernacular Schools.

The number of Middle Vernacular schools, *i.e.*, schools which read up to the Middle Scholarship, but in which the vernacular is the only recognized medium of instruction and forms the only course of studies, was 22 in 1880, and has declined steadily ever since, falling to 12 in 1885, to 9 in 1895, and finally to 6 in 1905. All these schools are situated in the interior of the district, and are maintained entirely by the Darbhangā Rāj. Not only the number of schools but also the attendance at them has been steadily declining, falling to 699 in 1885, to 438 in 1895, and again to 336 in 1905. The constant decrease in the number of schools, as well as in that of the pupils attending them, accompanied, as it has been, by a corresponding rise in the number and attendance of the High and Middle English schools, conclusively proves a growing preference for English education among the people,—a preference which is presumably due both to the intrinsic worth of

the latter and to its higher market value, which make parents consider it an absolute necessity for their children. There are 8 Middle Scholarships allotted to the district, of which one is reserved for the Muhammadans.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

In 1880 there were 507 Primary schools with 10,533 pupils in attendance; and the numbers rose to 1,634 and 28,406 respectively, in 1885, on account of the introduction of a system of payment by results. Consequent upon the strict enforcement, between the years 1885 and 1895, of rules prohibiting the recognition of and grant of aid to *pāthshālas* having 5 boys only or only such boys as were related to the teachers, the number of schools fell to 811 in 1904 and that of pupils to 21,738, but they rose to 1,190 and 36,773 respectively in 1905. The doubling of the number of pupils attending Primary schools is partly due to the grants from public sources having increased from Rs. 14,433 in 1895 to Rs. 38,614 in 1905, and partly to the introduction of the new scheme of vernacular education, which has made the *pāthshālas* more attractive. Of 36,773 pupils in Primary schools on the 31st March 1905, 31,329 were Hindus and 5,444 were Muhammadans. The cost of educating each pupil was Re. 1-0-10 from public funds and Re. 1-14 from all other sources. There are 5 Upper Primary and 34 Lower Primary Scholarships for boys.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

There was no special school in the district prior to 1882, when the Madhubanī Sanskrit school with 59 pupils was for the first time entered in the departmental returns. The number of such schools has now risen to 49 and the attendance at them to 1,082 pupils. Of these, three are Guru Training schools, one at the head-quarters of each of the three subdivisions, which have been established for the training of the *gurus* of primary schools; one at Patahi is a female *guru* training school where females are trained for the purpose of teaching in the girls' schools of the district; one is an industrial school, opened for the training of carpenters, blacksmiths and painters on modern lines; and 44 are Sanskrit *tols* with 981 pupils. The most important of the latter institutions are the Narāyanī Pāthshāla at Akhtiārpur in the Samastipur subdivision, at which 102 pupils are trained in different branches at the cost of its founder, a Sannyāsi depending on alms received from the public; and the Madhubanī Sanskrit school, which receives a Government grant of Rs. 20 a month, and prepares candidates for the first and second Sanskrit examinations and the Title examination. The latter has 3 Pandits on its staff, the cost of the establishment being Rs. 125 a month, of which Rs. 105 is met from subscriptions. The majority of the students of the schools are Brāhmans, and all of them are free students.

There are 3 boarding-houses in the district—one attached to the High English School at Madhubanī, which was opened in September 1905, the cost of the building being met from local subscriptions; the second is attached to the Madhubanī Sanskrit School; and the third to the Madrasa Imdādia in Darbhangā. HOSTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES.

In the year 1885 the number of Muhammadans in all classes of schools was 8,667, and their percentage to the total number of scholars was 22·2. With the general decline in the total number of pupils of all denominations, which, as already mentioned in the paragraph on Primary Education, occurred between 1885 and 1895, the number of Muhammadan pupils decreased in 1895 to 4,930, and their percentage to the total number of scholars fell to 16·6. When in 1905 the attendance of pupils of all denominations increased, the number of Muhammadan pupils increased to 7,497, but the percentage remained almost the same, viz., 16·5. As a rule, secular instruction is not very popular among the Muhammadans of Bengal, and they are generally slower than the Hindus to grasp the advantages of education; but considering that the percentage of Muhammadans to the total population is only 12·11, it would appear that in Darbhangā they are more eager than the Hindus to give their sons a modern education. MUHAMMADAN EDUCATION.

There was no girls' school in the district prior to 1883, when 3 schools with 37 pupils were entered in the returns; but 1,923 girls were returned in 1882 as reading in boys' schools, this number being the result of the introduction of a system under which rewards were given to teachers in boys' schools for teaching girls. In 1885 the number of girls reading in boys' schools was 1,702, the stipends to girls' schools varying from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 a month, and the total expenditure on female education from the primary grant being Rs. 1,259. In 1895 the number of schools rose to 31 and of pupils to 446, but the number of girls reading in boys schools declined to 226, a decrease which may be attributed to the reasons already mentioned in the paragraph on Primary Education. In 1905 the number of girls' schools rose to 67 and that of pupils to 1,237, while the number of girls reading in boys' schools increased to 1,469, so that the total number of girls reading in public institutions rose from 672 in 1895 to 2,706 in 1905, or by more than 400 per cent. At the same time, the expenditure from public sources on female education rose from Rs. 465 to Rs. 2,309. FEMALE EDUCATION.

Of the 2,706 girls receiving instruction in public institutions, 2 were in the Upper Primary stage, 859 in the higher, and 1,845 in the lower section of the Lower Primary schools. There is no prejudice against male teachers being employed in girls' schools, provided that they belong to the same village, nor is there any

objection to boys and girls of tender years reading together.

There is one Model girls' school at Dighrā in the Samastipur subdivision, which had 28 pupils on the rolls on the 31st March 1905. Out of 34 Lower Primary Scholarships allotted in this district, one is reserved for girls.

NUMBER OF LITERATE.

The preceding account shows that education, though still backward, has made considerable progress in recent years, and this is corroborated by the statistics of the census of 1901. At this census a special return was made of those able to read and write any language, and people of whatever age who could satisfy this simple test were entered as literate, and those who could not as illiterate. In Darbhangā it was ascertained that only 1 female per mille could read and write, but on the other hand the percentage of literate males was 7·1, as compared with 5·8 in 1891 and 3·3 in 1881. The percentage of literates was however much lower than in the Province as a whole, where the percentage of males able to read and write was found to be 10·4, while 5 out of every 1,000 females were returned as literate.

CHAPTER XV.

GAZETTEER.

Ahiāri.—A village in the north-west of the head-quarters subdivision, situated a little to the south-east of Kamtaul, about 15 miles north-west of Darbhangā, close to the northern boundary of the subdivision. Here a religious gathering, called the Ahalyāsthān or Singheswarsthān, is held every March. It lasts for a whole day, and is attended by about 10,000 people, who first cleanse themselves in the holy waters of the *kund* or reservoir of Deokalī in *pargana* Tirsat, and then come barefoot to see the footprint of Sīta, imprinted on a flat stone, which is enshrined in a temple called the Ahalyāsthān. The story runs that in this place was the shrine of Gautama Rishi, whose wife Ahalyā was remarkable for her beauty. The sage was accustomed to rise early and bathe in the Ganges, 50 miles distant. One morning, when he had gone off sooner than usual, Indra, king of the gods, assuming Gautama's appearance and manner, told Ahalyā that it was still early, and that he would not start till later. Ahalyā admitted him, unconscious of the deception practised on her. When the sage returned, he cursed them both. Ahalyā became a stone, in which shape she remained for a thousand years, until Rāma on his way to Janakpur touched the stone, when she was forthwith translated to heaven. The village contains a handsome temple, which is visible for several miles round.

Baherā.—A large village in the head-quarters subdivision, situated about 20 miles south-east of Darbhangā. It is the head-quarters of a police-station and a trade centre of some local importance; but the main interest attaching to it is that it was the original head-quarters of the Darbhangā subdivision, which was constituted in 1845. Owing to its unhealthy and inconvenient situation, the offices were removed to Darbhangā in 1865.

Balrājpur.—A village in the Madhubanī subdivision, situated about 10 miles east of Khajaulī and 16 miles north-east of Madhubanī. The village contains the remains of a fort known as the *garh* or fort of Rājā Bal. Only the ramparts are standing, but these are in good repair. The walls, which enclosed a rectangle about

500 by 300 yards in length, are composed of large well-burnt bricks, nearly a foot long, and are still 10 feet in height; and the remains of round towers, about 40 feet in height, are standing at each of the four corners. The interior of the fort is overgrown with jungle and is uninhabited, except by a solitary *bairāgi*, who is in charge of the shrine of Rājā Bal. The latter is worshipped as a local divinity, but the people round have no knowledge as to who Rājā Bal was or when the fort was built. They believe, however, that Rāja Bal and his army still inhabit it, and in consequence of this they are afraid to bring the site into cultivation. They allow their cattle to graze there in the day time, but nothing would induce them to visit it at night. This popular superstition is doubtless the reason for the excellent state of preservation of the ramparts, for otherwise the people could certainly have removed the bricks of which it is composed. A former Subdivisional Officer, while carrying out some excavations in the fort, was attacked by fever and had to give up the work. This circumstance has greatly strengthened the superstition with regard to the sanctity of the site, as the people believe that Rājā Bal himself sent the fever. The country round is dotted with mounds, in which bricks similar to those in the fort are found. These may have been constructed at the same time as the fort to serve as outposts.

Bāsdeopur.—A village in the Madhubanī subdivision, situated about 10 miles to the east of Madhubanī. Its old name was Sankarpur, which was first changed to Sankarpur Gandhwār, and then to the present name. The traditional explanation of these changes is as follows:—There were two brothers—one called Gandh, the other Bhaur—both exceedingly powerful. Though nominally subject to the Rājā of Tirhut, each acquired a large territory, the lands owned by Gandh lying to the east of the Tiljūgā, and those owned by Bhaur to the south of the Karai. The Rājā tried hard to get rid of them, but was unsuccessful, until he induced two strangers to kill them. The strangers, after killing them, obtained their estates, the slayer of Gandh and his descendants thus acquiring the name of Gandhmāriyā (Gandh-killing), and the family of the slayer of Bhaur the name of Bhaursoriyā (Bhaur-subduing). The latter lived at Singiā in *pargana* Chak Mani, close to the Karai, and the former in Sankarpur, which then became Sankarpur Gandhwār, and was ultimately annexed to the Darbhangā Rāj. When Mahārājā Chhattar Singh of Darbhangā married, this village was given to his wife as a dowry; and she in her turn gave it to her second son Bāsdeo Singh. On the death of Chhattar Singh in 1839, his eldest son, Rudar Singh, succeeded to the Rāj, and *pargana* Jarail was made

over to Bāsdeo Singh for his maintenance; but as he claimed half of the Rāj and contested Rudar Singh's right, he refused to compromise himself by accepting Jarail, and retired to Sankarpur Gandhwār, his mother's gift. Here he erected temples and dug several tanks; and the village, again changing its name, was called after him Bāsdeopur.

Berautpur.—A village in the Khajaulī thāna, 12 miles north of Madhubani, containing a *garh* or fort which covers an area of about two-thirds of an acre. There are traces of walls and rooms, and an idol of Mahādeo, represented by a cylindrical pillar standing in a hollowed-out recess. The fort is said to have been built by Rājā Beraut, whose date is placed about the time of the Mahābhārata. The Telis or oilmen of the place claim him as one of their caste, on the ground that the pillar alluded to was intended to represent an oil-mill, and to be an emblem of his caste.

Bhawāra.—A large village about half a mile to the south of Madhubanī. To the south are pointed out the remains of a fort or *garh*, which at one time had brick walls. The whole is now in ruins, and there is nothing in its external appearance to distinguish it from an ordinary tank. It is said to have been built by Raghu Singh, one of the early members of the Darbhangā Rāj family, who resided here till about 1762, when Pratāb Singh removed his household to Darbhangā. There are no temples of any importance or interest in the village; but a mosque, now in ruins, with only a front wall and six arched doors remaining, is pointed out as having been built by Alā-ud-dīn Husain, one of the last independent kings of Bengal (1493—1518).

Darbhangā Rāj.—The largest estate in the district, owned by the Mahārājā of Darbhangā. The Darbhangā family traces its origin to one Mahesh Thākur, who is said to have come from Jubbulpore about the beginning of the 16th century. He took service as a priest with the descendants of Rājā Siva Singh, who still exercised a nominal supremacy in Tirhut, but when they collapsed before the advancing Muhammadan power, Mahesh Thākur managed to induce Akbar to grant him what are now the Darbhangā Rāj estates. He and his descendants gradually consolidated the power of the family; and about 1700 the title of Rājā was for the first time conferred on its head, Raghu Singh, by Alī Vardi Khān. He was given a *mukarari* lease of *Sarkār* Tirhut at an annual rent of a lakh of rupees; but soon afterwards Alī Vardi Khān, hearing of the enormous profits he made, seized his property and carried off his family as prisoners to Patna. The Rājā surrendered himself, and was ordered back to Tirhut as a mere revenue collector, a few villages and a grant

of *sadai* (2 per cent. on the collections) being given to him on condition "that he should do justice and relieve distress; that he should put the country in a flourishing state and keep it so; that he should supply the ryots with the necessaries for cultivation, and be equally answerable to Government for the revenue collected through his dependants as for those immediately under his own superintendence."

Rājā Narendra Singh was the proprietor of the estate, when the British took possession of Bihār. On his death in 1760, he was succeeded by his adopted son, Pratāb Singh, who in 1762 removed the family residence to Darbhangā from Bhawāra near Madhubanī. The latter was succeeded in 1776 by his brother Madhu Singh, who was constantly at variance with the Collector owing to his refusal to engage for the revenue, until certain claims of his were acknowledged. He obstinately refused all terms offered to him, and did his best, by intimidation, to prevent farmers from taking the settlement of his estates or from collecting rents if they did take the settlement of them. This was a serious obstacle in the way of effecting a settlement of the district; and the Collector, incensed by his contumacy, was continually complaining of his insolence and obstructiveness. Referring to the terms of the grant made to Raghu Singh, he angrily declared that "instead of relieving distress, he has multiplied it; instead of doing justice he has been the instrument of injustice; instead of putting the country in a flourishing state, he has desolated it; instead of furnishing the ryots with the necessaries for cultivation, he has drove them by repeated extortions from the fields which once were loaded with the fruits of their industry."

Madhu Singh did not finally come to terms till after 1800, when he agreed to a comparatively fair *jamā* of 1½ lakh; and his estates, which had been let out in farm, were then restored to him. On his death in 1808, he was succeeded by his son Chhattar Singh, who rendered good service to Government at the time of the Nepāl war in 1814-15. He was the first to receive the title of Mahārājā, and since that time the title, though never formally recognized as hereditary, has been granted by Government as a personal distinction to each successive proprietor of the estate. In 1839, a few days before his death, he made over his estate to his eldest son, Rudar Singh, with the exception of a few villages which he gave to his younger son, Bāsdeo Singh. The latter then claimed half of the Rāj, alleging that the disposition of the property ought not to be regulated by the *kulāchār* or family custom, but by Hindu law. The Sessions Judge, whose decision was

upheld by the High Court, held that Rudar Singh was entitled to the Rāj, and that Bāsdeo Singh was only entitled to *pargana* Jarail as maintenance, on the ground that the succession to the family property is regulated by the family custom; that the eldest son succeeds to the Rāj, the younger sons obtaining sufficient landed property for their maintenance; and that the Rāj pays the Government revenue direct for them, and they reimburse it, the lands being assigned on condition that, failing male issue, they revert to the Rāj. This decision, which has settled once for all that the estate is impartible and that inheritance to it is regulated by primogeniture, has been instrumental in preserving the estate in its integrity, and in making its proprietor the greatest land-owner in Bihār. But the immediate effect of the litigation, combined with mismanagement, was to involve the estate in serious difficulties; so that when Mahārājā Maheswar Singh died in 1866 and the Court of Wards took charge of it for his minor son, it was 70 lakhs in debt and the revenue was only 16 lakhs. Under the management of the Court of Ward, the finances of the estate recovered, and 20 years later, when it was made over to the late Mahārājā Lakshmeswar Singh, it was in a flourishing condition.

The Rāj estates at present comprise lands situated in the districts of Darbhangā, Muzaffarpur, Gayā, Monghyr, Purnea and Bhāgalpur, amounting to over 2,400 square miles. The Mahārājā is also the owner of house property in the towns of Darbhangā, Muzaffarpur, Patna, Benares, Calcutta, Allahābād, Darjeeling and Simlā, and of the indigo concerns of Saraiyā and Bachaur in the Muzaffarpur district, Pandaul in Darbhangā and Gondwāra in Purnea. The principal residence of the Mahārājā is the Anandbāgh palace; a palace for the Rānī is being built at Darbhangā, and another is in process of completion at Rājnagar. The rent-roll exceeds 32 lakhs of rupees, and the Government revenue, including cesses, is 7¼ lakhs. The present system of management was introduced when the estate was under the Court of Wards, and is very complete. The estate is divided into circles of from fifty to two hundred villages each; each circle is in charge of a sub-manager, who is responsible to the Mahārājā for its efficient working, and under each sub-manager there are usually several *tahsildārs* or rent-collectors in charge of groups of villages.

The present proprietor of the estate is Mahārājā Bahādur Sir Rāmeswar Singh, K.C.I.E. He was born in 1860, and in 1878 was appointed to the Statutory Civil Service; he served in several Bihār districts as an Assistant Magistrate, but resigned

the service in 1885. He succeeded to the Rāj in December 1898, when his brother died heirless, and was made a Mahārājā Bahādur three weeks afterwards. In 1900 he was given the Kaisar-i-Hind gold medal; in 1902 he was made K.C.I.E.; and in 1904 he was elected by the non-official members of the Bengal Legislative Council as their representative on the Governor-General's Legislative Council.

Darbhangā subdivision.—Head-quarters subdivision of the district, lying between 25° 38′ and 26° 26′ N., and 85° 41′ and 86° 44′ E., and extending over 1,224 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the subdivision of Madhubanī, on the south by the Samāstipur subdivision, on the west by Muzaffarpur, and on the east partly by the Supaul subdivision of the Bhāgalpur District and partly by the Begusarai subdivision of the Monghyr District. Like the Madhubanī subdivision, it resembles in shape a fairly well defined parallelogram, its length from north to south being greater than its breadth from west to east. The greater part of the area which it comprises consists of a low-lying plain, containing a number of marshes and intersected by many streams and rivers, of which the most important are the Bāghmati, Little Bāghmati, Kamlā and Tiljūgā. The Bāghmati, which enters this subdivision from Muzaffarpur, forms a natural boundary between it and the Samāstipur subdivision, pursuing a south-easterly course till it empties itself into the Burh Gandak near Rusera. The Little Bāghmati enters the subdivision from the Madhubanī subdivision near Pāli and runs past the town of Darbhangā down to Hayā Ghāt, where it is joined by the Bāghmati proper. The Karai, which traverses the whole of Rusera thāna, issues from the Kamlā and the Bāghmati, and joins the Tiljūgā at Tilkeswar. In itself, it is an unimportant stream, but it is fed by the Bāghmati, which cuts into it east of Hayā Ghāt. The Kamlā enters the subdivision at Singar Pandaul, and flowing east of Darbhangā joins the Tiljūgā at the south-eastern corner of Rusera thāna. The Tiljūgā skirts the eastern boundary of the subdivision.

The subdivision, which was established in 1845, comprises the thānas of Darbhangā, Baherā and Rusera and the police outposts of Darbhangā town, Jalā, and Singiā. Its population, which was 1,048,806 in 1891, rose to 1,065,595 in 1901, and the density is 871 persons to the square mile. It contains 1,306 villages and 2 towns, Rusera and Darbhangā; its head-quarters are at Laheriā Sarai, which is included within the limits of the Darbhangā Municipality.

Darbhangā town.—Head-quarters station and principal town of the district, situated on the bank of the Little Bāghmati river. It probably takes its name from one Darbhangī Khān, a Muhammadan free-booter, of whom little or nothing is known, though local patriotism insists that the name is a corruption of *Dar-i-Bangal*, *i. e.*, the gate of Bengal. The whole country round the town becomes a swamp during the rains, being subject to inundations from the Kamlā and Little Bāghmati; and the civil station and public offices were therefore moved in 1884 to the suburb of Laheriā Sarai at the extreme south of the town.

The town stretches for five or six miles along the bank of the Little Bāghmati, which is spanned by two large iron girder bridges. Its most conspicuous feature is a number of large tanks, which give it a picturesque appearance during the rains. The names of the largest are Gangā Sāgar, Dīghī, Harāhi and Lakshmī Sāgar. The three first are situated in a line, with a drive passing from one to the other, and their united length is 6,000 feet; Harāhi being 1,600 feet long and 1,000 feet broad; Dīghī 2,400 feet long and 1,200 feet broad; the Gangā Sāgar 2,000 feet long and 1,000 feet broad. It has been conjectured that these were excavated in order to secure raised ground for soldiers' quarters, this theory resting on the belief that the town was once a Musalmān cantonment. The local tradition, however, is that in the time of Rājā Siva Singh, a fisherwoman, with a basket of fish on her head, was on her way to market, accompanied by her daughter-in-law. A kite from a neighbouring tree pounced down and carried away a fish from the basket. Instead of sympathising with her, the daughter-in-law began to laugh. Enraged at her unfilial conduct, the mother-in-law gave vent to her anger, and a hot quarrel ensued. All this was witnessed by the Rājā as he sat at his window, and he lost no time in sending for the women. He asked the younger woman the cause of her unseasonable laughter; but she begged hard to be excused, saying that if she told her story it would be certain death to her. The Rājā's curiosity being roused, he insisted on hearing her reason. "In the reign of king Yudhisthir," said the younger fisherwoman, "I was a kite. During the war of the Mahābhārata, I carried away the arm of a woman, with a golden bracelet weighing 80 maunds, and brought it here and ate it. I laughed at the thought of the petty greed of the puny kites of the present time, who do not mind pouncing down on a paltry fish." Saying this, she expired. The Mahārājā, curious to find out the truth of the story, ordered a series of tanks to be dug in the places pointed out. At last, his perseverance was rewarded by finding

the skeleton of the arm, as well as the golden bracelet; and so the tank in which they were found was called *Hardhi* or the bone tank.*

In respect of population, Darbhangā ranks third among the towns of the Patna Division. The population of the town increased from 53,744 in 1872 to 65,955 in 1881 and to 73,561 in 1891, but fell again to 66,244 in 1901, the total number of inhabitants including 47,946 Hindus, 18,122 Muhammadans and 171 Christians. This decrease, however, is to a great extent fictitious, as the population of the town was abnormally large in 1891 on account of the presence of some 5,000 Brāhmans who had come to partake of a feast given by the Mahārājā of Darbhangā, whereas in 1901 the date of the census was an auspicious one for weddings, and consequently a large number of persons were temporarily absent. Communications by road are good in all directions. The town is connected with the North Ganges railway system by a line from Samāstipur on the south, which branches off at Darbhangā in two directions, the first north-west to Sītāmarhi and the second north-east to Khanwā Ghāt on the Kosi. A considerable trade is carried on, the principal exports being oil-seeds, *ghī* and timber; and the imports consisting of food-grains, salt, gunny cloth, piece-goods, lime and iron.

Darbhangā was constituted a municipality in 1864, and the area within municipal limits is 7 square miles. A considerable portion of the town is of a rural character, for which very little is required in the way of drainage beyond seeing that the drains are kept clear and that the rain-water is carried off quickly. The natural fall is in most cases from west to east, but some parts drain towards the west. Besides the three large tanks to the east of the town, which have already been mentioned, there are numerous smaller tanks, 300 or 400 in number, which at present receive the rain-water and some of the sullage water of the town. A drainage scheme for carrying off rain-water and having six main outfalls was prepared some years ago, but it is only in the crowded portion of the town that a scheme of shallow surface drains is required. The water-supply is obtained from tanks, wells and the river; there are 383 private wells and 39 public wells; and 3 tanks, one of which belongs to the municipality, have been reserved for drinking-water. The municipality contains 14 miles of metalled and 20 miles of unmetalled roads, and two markets, one belonging to the Darbhangā Rāj and the other to the municipality. A large portion of the town has sprung up in

* Names of Places in Bihār by Mr. J. Christian, Calcutta Review, 1892.

recent times; and it contains few buildings of any interest. The principal buildings are the residence of the Mahārājā of Darbhangā, a large modern building with extensive grounds covering 55 acres; the Darbhangā Rāj Hospital, which is one of the finest in Bihar; and the Victoria Memorial Hall, which has taken the shape of a Town Hall, at Laheriā Sarai, one wing being used by the Heycock Club and containing a library.

Jaynagar.—A village in the Madhubanī subdivision, situated a few miles south of the Nepāl frontier and a little east of the river Kamlā, in 26° 35′ N., and 86° 9′ E. Population (1901) 3,551. The village contains the remains of a mud fort now in ruins. It is surrounded by a moat, and the remains of several turrets on each of its four sides are still visible. There is a tradition that a Muhammadan general selected this place as the site for a fort to resist the incursions of the hill tribes, but finding a dead body in the ground, he considered the spot unlucky and abandoned it. It is probably one of the line of forts which Alā-ud-dīn Husain, King of Bengal (1493—1518), constructed from Kāmrūp in Assam to Bettiah, in order to resist the inroads of the hill tribes. Near the fort is an encampment made by the English during the Nepalese war.

Jhanjhārpur.—A village in the Madhubanī subdivision, situated on the Bengal and North-Western Railway about 14 miles south-east of Madhubanī, in 26° 16′ N. and 86° 17′ E. Population (1901) 5,639. It is a large and thriving village, noted for the brass utensils turned out by the local braziers, particularly the *pānbatta* or box for holding betel-leaf and the *gangājali* or water-pot. The place is also noteworthy from the fact that all the children of the Mahārājā of Darbhangā are born there and not at Darbhangā. It seems that many of the Darbhangā family had died childless, and that Pratāb Singh, the Rājā of Darbhangā from 1760 to 1776, alarmed at this, consulted a *mahanth* who lived at the village of Murnam not far off. The *mahanth*, proceeding to Jhanjhārpur, burnt a lock of his hair, and said that whoever dwelt there would have a male issue. Pratāb Singh immediately commenced to build a house on the spot; but unfortunately for the *mahanth's* prediction, he died without issue before the house was finished. Madhu Singh, his brother, however, completed it and sometimes stayed there. The village formerly belonged to a family of Rājputs, but, as the Mahārānī always resided there when pregnant, Mahārājā Chhattar Singh (1808—1839) bought it from them. It contains a temple of Rakatmātā, and two bazars, one called Pratābganj from Pratāb Singh, and the other Sriganj from Madhu Singh's sister-in-law.

Jiwachh.—A village in the head-quarters subdivision, situated 3 miles north-east of Darbhangā on the banks of the Kamlā. Here a *melā* or religious gathering is held during full moon in the months of Kārtik (October-November) and Māgh (January-February). Very little trade is carried on at the fair, which is primarily a bathing festival; it is attended principally by women, who imagine that bathing in the Kamlā is a cure for sterility, and that it will give sickly children a new lease of life.

Kakraul.—A village in the Madhubanī subdivision, about 5 miles north-west of Madhubanī and on the Jaynagar road. The place is a centre of the weaving of *khokti* cloth which is of good and firm texture, and is largely bought by the Nepalese. It is also celebrated among the local Hindu community from the fact that one of its hamlets, Husainpur, contains the temple of Kapileswar Mahādeo, which, according to tradition, was built by one of the ancient sages, Kapila Muni, who is said to have lived in the village and to have placed an image of Siva in the temple. A fair is held there annually in January or February, when cloth, brass vessels and grain are sold.

Laheriā Sarai.—Suburb of Darbhangā town. *See* Darbhangā town.

Lehrā.—A village in the head-quarters subdivision, situated 13 miles east of Darbhangā on the main road from Madhubanī to Baherā. Tradition connects this place with Siva Singh, the most famous of the last Hindu kings of Tirhut, and ascribes to him the three great tanks in the village. The largest is known as Ghordaur, and legend relates that it was excavated by Siva Singh, who, mounted on horseback, fixed its boundary by holding a pitcher of water in his right hand and allowing the water to flow through a spout, as he galloped his horse at its utmost speed, until the water from the vessel had all been expended. This tank is about 2 miles long, but there is water only at one end, the rest being now under cultivation. It seems that an old bed of the Kamlā cut into it, and drained off nearly all the water. Siva Singh is said to have lived near this tank; and there are about 13 *bighas* of land now covered with bricks and jungle, which are pointed out as the site of his palace.

Madhubanī subdivision.—Northern subdivision of the district, lying between 26° 2′ and 26° 49′ N. and 85° 45′ and 86° 44′ E., and extending over 1,346 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the Nepāl *Tarai*, on the west by the Sitamarhi subdivision of the Muzaffarpur District, on the east by the Supaul subdivision of the Bhāgalpur District, and on the south by the head-quarters subdivision of Darbhangā.

In shape, the subdivision resembles a parallelogram, its mean breadth from west to east being a little greater than its mean length from north to south. It consists of a rich alluvial plain intersected by numerous rivers and streams issuing from the Nepāl hills and running almost parallel to each other from north to south. The chief of these rivers are the Little Bāghmati, Kamlā, Karai, Balān and Tiljūgā. The Little Bāghmati enters the subdivision at Bishnupur Ugarpatī about 10 miles west of Benīpatī, and after being joined by its tributary the Dhaus near Bankutā in the same thāna, takes a south-easterly course. The Kamlā flows southward from the hills and falls into the Little Bāghmati near Dudhail. This river frequently changes its course, and its old beds are found all over the north of the subdivision; at present an independent stream, called the Kamlā proper, flows past Singar Paudaul. To the east of this river are the Little Balān, the Bhāti Balān or the Balān proper, and the Tiljūgā, which skirts the eastern boundary of the subdivision. The Little Batān is a deep narrow river with a well-defined bed running south through the eastern part of the Khajaulī and Madhubanī thānas. The Bhāti Balān is a wide river with a shifting sandy bed, liable to heavy floods but remaining practically dry during the greater part of the year. Like the Kamlā, it frequently changes its course, and its old beds are found all over the north of Phulparās thāna.

The subdivision, which was established in 1866, comprises the thānas of Madhubanī, Benīpatī, Khajaulī and Phulparās, and the police outposts of Jhanjhārpur, Madhwārpur, Deodhā, Ladaniā and Madhupur, besides beat-houses at Harlākhi and Lamkhā. The population rose from 1,014,700 in 1891 to 1,094,379 in 1901, of whom 965,352 were Hindus and 128,992 were Muhammadans. It is less densely inhabited than the rest of the district, there being 813 persons to the square mile; and it is the only subdivision where there is much room for further expansion. It contains many ridges of uplands suitable for *rabi* cultivation; but the staple crop is winter rice, and the paddy of Alāpur, Jabdi, and Bachaur is famous all over Bihār. It contains one town, Madhubanī, its head-quarters, and 1,084 villages. Narahiā is an important centre of the Nepalese grain traffic; at Jhanjhārpur, on the railway, brass utensils of a superior quality are manufactured; at Saurāth an important annual *melā* or religious festival is held; and Jaynagar is the site of an old fort.

Madhubanī town.—Head-quarters town of the subdivision of the same name, situated about 16 miles north-east of Darbhanga town in 26° 21′ N. and 86° 5′ E. Population (1901) 17,802.

Madhubanī is an important trading centre on the road from the Sakrī railway station to the Nepāl frontier. It was constituted a municipality in 1869, and the area within municipal limits is 4 square miles. The town runs north and south, the principal thoroughfare being in that direction. It contains the usual public offices, a dispensary, and a sub-jail with accommodation for 12 prisoners. To the north of the town is the residence of some large land-owners, known as the Madhubanī Bābus, who are connections of the Mahārājā of Darbhangā, as they are descended from Kīrat Singh, the third son of Madhu Singh, who was the proprietor of the Darbhangā Rāj at the end of the 18th century. The name Madhubanī means the honey-forest, and points to a time when the land on which the town stands was covered by an uncleared forest, from which bee's-wax was obtained by a scanty population.

Mālinagar.—A village in the south-western corner of the head-quarters subdivision, situated on the north bank of the Little Gandak, on the road from Darbhangā to Pūsa, opposite the latter place. The village contains a temple of Mahādeo, which was built in 1844 by a local *baniyā*, one of whose family was given the title of Rai Bahādur for his loyalty during the Mutiny. His descendant has the right of selecting the priest, who is not paid a fixed salary, but receives rice and vegetables daily, besides the offerings made to the idol. At the time the temple was built, it was decided to hold a *melā*, called Rāmnāmi, in honour of Rāma; and since that time an annual *melā*, lasting from the 1st to the 5th April, has taken place in the village. It is partly religious, partly commercial, and is attended by 2,000 to 4,000 persons.

Mithilā.—The ancient name for the tract of country bounded on the north by the Himālayas, on the east by the river Kosi, on the south by the Ganges, and on the west by the Gandak. It comprised the present districts of Champāran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhangā, parts of the districts of Monghyr, Bhāgalpur and Purnea, and the strip of Nepāl *Tarai* lying between these districts and the lower ranges of the Himālayas.

Narahiā.—Village in the north-eastern corner of the Madhubanī subdivision situated a few miles north-east of Phulparās in 26° 22′ N. and 86° 32′ E. Population (1901) 5,069. Narahiā is connected by a road with the railway, and is an important centre for the Nepalese grain traffic.

Pūsa.—Village in the Samastipur subdivision, situated near the right bank of the Little Gandak and near the western boundary of the district in 25° 59′ N., and 85° 40′ E. Population

(1901) 4,570. The village was acquired by Government in 1796; and other waste lands appertaining to Bakhtiyārpur, a village on the other side of the river (population 1,384) were assigned to Government in 1798 without any additional rent. Pūsa was long used as a stud depôt, but all stud operations were closed in 1874. The property was then for a short time utilized as a model or experimental farm, special attention being devoted to the growing and curing of tobacco; but the management was unsuccessful, and in 1877 it was leased out to Messrs. Begg, Dunlop & Co. for tobacco-growing experiments. The latter continued to hold the farm up to 1897, but, the firm having finally decided to abandon their experiments, the lease was not renewed. In 1904 the estate was made over to the Government of India as the site for an Imperial Agricultural College, research laboratory, experimental cultivation farm and cattle-breeding farm; the buildings required for this purpose are now being erected.

The estate covers an area of 1,280 acres, of which about 800 acres are culturable, the remainder being occupied by roads, avenues, house-sites, etc. It is 5 miles from Wainī station on the Tirhut State Railway, to which there is a good road, and it is within easy reach by road of the towns of Darbhangā and Muzaffarpur. The river Gandak, which is navigable for boats of moderate size, forms its boundary on the north and east, and affords water for irrigation, while its navigability forms a practical advantage of some value. The area of the estate may be roughly divided into tracts of three distinct classes:—(1) The central upland tract of about 500 acres, upon which the buildings, the avenues and most of the roads are situated, including about 350 acres of culturable land. (2) The southern low-lying tract of about 350 acres suitable for cultivation of rice and *rabi* crops. (3) The riverain tract of about 150 acres, extending along the bank of the river Gandak. This tract is usually flooded in the rains and is chiefly suitable for grass-cutting and grazing. It is proposed to use 400 acres, or if necessary a larger area, for cultivation; and the remainder will provide grazing for a herd of 200 cattle, which it is intended to establish for the improvement of local breeds.

The estate is reported to be unusually well adapted for the purposes of an experimental farm; for the conditions of soil and climate are such that many of the more important field and garden crops can be grown as dry crops; and with irrigation (for which the river which adjoins the estate affords special facilities, and which is also possible from wells) practically every important crop known in India can be grown. As regards the cattle farm, the estate is said to be admirably adapted for breeding; it is

proposed to maintain the farm for the purpose of improving the local breeds, rather than of introducing foreign strains. It will be a head-quarters from which bulls can suitably be supplied to the districts of Bengal (other than the rice tracts) or to the eastern districts of the United Provinces. The Research Institute owes its inception to the generosity of Mr. Henry Phipps, who placed at the disposal of the Viceroy, Lord Curzon, a donation of £30,000 to be used in promoting scientific research. This institute, to which Mr. Phipps' name is to be given, will adjoin the farm, and will contain a library, museum, herbarium, such laboratories and offices as are necessary, a large central hall, and one or two lecture-rooms for the students of the Agricultural College which is to be established as part of the scheme. The Agricultural College is intended not only to provide for the needs of Bengal, but also to serve as a model for, and raise the standard of, agricultural colleges in other Provinces, and to provide for a more complete and efficient agricultural education than is now possible in any of the existing institutions. The complete course of instruction will be one of 5 years, and the curriculum will include agriculture (theory of practice), chemistry (inorganic, organic and agricultural), systematic and cryptogamic botany, agricultural entomology, geology as applied to agriculture, elementary physics and medicines in their application to agriculture. The practical side of the training will include veterinary science, so far as it is required by agriculturists, land survey and mensuration, farm management, farm accounts and allied subjects.

Rusera.—Town in the head-quarters subdivision, situated on the east bank of the Little Gandak just below the confluence of that river with the Bāghmati, in 25° 45′ N. and 86° 2′ E. Population (1901) 10,245. Rusera, owing to its position on the Little Gandak, was at one time the largest market in the south of the district, but, though it is still an important bazar, it has somewhat lost its importance since the opening of the railway. Rusera was constituted a municipality in 1869, and the area within municipal limits is 2·5 square miles.

Samastipur subdivision.—Southern subdivision of the district, lying between 25° 28′ and 26° 5′ N. and 85° 31′ and 86° 1′ E., and extending over 778 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the Bāghmati river, which separates it from the head-quarters subdivision, on the west by the Hājīpur subdivision of Muzaffarpur, on the south by the Ganges, and on the east by the Begusarai subdivision of the Monghyr District. Physically, it resembles the subdivisions of Hājīpur and Begusarai, the whole tract forming a rich alluvial country noted for the fertility

of its soil and for the excellence of its *rabi* crops. The Ganges skirts the subdivision on the south for 20 miles only; and the most important rivers traversing the subdivision are the Little or Burh Gandak, the Bayā, and the Jhamwāri and Balān, which are both offshoots of the Little Gandak. The Burh Gandak enters the subdivision from the west near Pusā, and then pursues a south-easterly course till it leaves the District near Ruserā; throughout this portion of its course it marks a natural boundary, the uplands, which constitute the greater part of the subdivision, lying to the south and the marshy *doāb* of Wārisnagar to the north. The Bayā flows through a portion of the Dalsingh Sarai thāna and joins the Ganges below Dhanespur at the extreme south-east corner of the subdivision. The Jhamwāri and the Balān are branches of the Burh Gandak, which they leave at Pusā, and after flowing through the south-west of Samāstipur rejoin the parent stream in Monghyr.

With the exception of part of the *doāb* between the Bāghmati and Little Gandak rivers, the subdivision consists of a large block of upland interspersed with a few *chaurs* or marshes. It is the richest and most fertile part of the district, producing all the most valuable *rabi* and *bhadoi* crops, and it is the centre of the indigo industry in the Darbhangā District. Vegetation is luxuriant, and mango groves and clusters of bamboos abound, giving a pleasing variety to the landscape. Its population rose from 738,449 in 1891 to 752,637 in 1901, when there were 967 persons to the square mile, the density of population being greater than in any other part of the district. It contains one town, Samāstipur, its head-quarters, and 843 villages. The subdivision was formerly known as the Tājpur subdivision, which was established in 1867; and it comprises the thānas of Samāstipur (formerly Tājpur), Dalsingh Sarai and Wārisnagar (formerly Nāgarbasti), and the police outposts of Mohiuddīnnagar and Tājpur.

Samāstipur town.—Head-quarters town of the subdivision of the same name, situated on the south bank of the Little Gandak river in 25° 52′ N. and 85° 48′ E. Population (1901) 9,101. Samāstipur is an important junction on the Bengal and North-Western Railway, and is the site of railway workshops which employ 1,000 hands. The town extends a short distance along the river bank, and is a large commercial centre, a considerable trade being carried on in rice, oil-seeds, pulses, saltpetre and piece-goods. It was constituted a municipality in 1897, and the area within municipal limits is 1·75 square miles. The town contains the usual public offices, and a sub-jail with accommodation for 23 prisoners.

Saurāth.—A village in the Madhubanī subdivision, situated 8 miles north-west of Madhubanī in 26° 24′ N. and 86° 31′ E. Population (1901) 2,062. The village is the site of a large *melā*, or religious gathering, which takes place annually in June or July, when thousands of Brāhmans assemble to settle their children's marriages. It contains a large temple of Mahādeo, which was built in 1845 by the Mahārājā of Darbhangā, a plain brick building, covered with stucco, of no great architectural pretensions. Close by is a large tank with broad steps leading down to the water, the whole place being shaded by a fine mango grove, under which the people buy and sell during the *melā*. Saurāth contains two large mounds, with ruins scattered for about a mile round, which the villagers believe to be the remains of an ancient city. Mr. Garrick of the Archæological Survey of India considered this belief well founded; and on making some small excavations in one of the mounds, unearthed some ancient bricks and a number of clay balls with holes through the centre, which, in his opinion, may have been used for spinning weights. *See* Reports Arch. Surv. Ind., Vol. XVI, pp. 94—97.

Silānāth.—A village in the Madhubanī subdivision, situated on the banks of the Kamlā, close to Jaynagar. Here every March or April a fair is held for about fifteen days, attended by 15,000 people, principally from the *Tarai*. The fair, doubtless, had its origin in large bodies of pilgrims coming to visit a temple of Mahādeo, which stood here; but the river Kamlā has changed its course, and washed the temple away, and now no trace of it remains.

Singiā.—A village in the Samāstipur subdivision, situated about 20 miles north-east of Rusera and 2 miles north of the Karai river. Two miles to the south of the river is an old fort known as Mangalgarh or Mangal's fort. This is a large enclosure about 1½ mile in circumference, surrounded by what are now mud walls, 30 or 40 feet high, and by a deep ditch. The interior is under cultivation; but the ground is strewn with large bricks, varying from 1½ to 2 feet in length, showing that there must have been considerable buildings inside. Little is known about the history of this fort, but there is a tradition that Rājā Bal, whose stronghold has already been mentioned (*see* Balrājpur), attacked it and destroyed Rājā Mangal after having blown down the gates.

Tājpur.—A village in the Samāstipur subdivision of Darbhangā district, Bengal, situated in 25° 52′ N. and 85° 41′ E. Population (1901) 1,240. It was formerly the head-quarters of the present Samāstipur subdivision, but was never of much

importance, for, even when it contained the subdivisional offices and a Munsif's court, the principal inhabitants were only court officials, *mukhtārs*, etc.

Tirhut.—The ancient name for the tract of country bounded on the north by the Himālayas, on the south by the Ganges, on the west by the river Gandak and on the east by the river Kosi. It comprised the British districts of Champāran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhangā, as well as the strip of Nepāl *Tarai* which runs between these districts and the lower ranges of the Himālayas. The name is a corruption of Tīrabhukti, or the river-side land; and according to tradition, it means the land in which the three great mythical *homas* (sacrificial fires) were performed, one at the birth of Sīta in or near Sītāmarhi, the second at Dhanukha at the foot of the Himālayas when the great celestial bow of Hara was broken by Rāma, and the third at the capital of Mithilā, Janakpur (now in Nepāl), at the marriage of Sīta. General Cunningham* considers that the term referred to the lands lying in the valleys of the Little Gandak and Bāghmati rivers. He points out that all the chief places in the country are found upon the banks of the former river, which, he says, must have been the channel of the Great Gandak until the seventh century A. D. Others, again, are of opinion that the term means the province bordering on the Ganges, and as the word *bhukti* is often used in the Sena inscriptions in the sense of province during the 10th, 11th and 12th centuries, it has been conjectured that the term is not very ancient and that it was first used when the Sena kings of Bengal conquered the country and settled a number of Bengali Brāhmans in it.

The name Tīrabhukti appears, however, to be far more ancient, for in the excavations† carried out at Basārh (Vaisāli) in the cold weather of 1903-04, seals dating back to the fourth and fifth centuries were discovered, on which the name occurs. Some of these seals were attached to letters addressed to officers, who are distinctly defined as being in charge of Tīrabhukti; and besides this word, there is the simple Tīra, which, it is suggested, was the locality from which the name Tīrabhukti or Province of Tīra was derived. The place cannot however be identified.

Under the Mughal Empire Tirhut formed a *Sarkār* or division of the *Sūbah* or province of Bihār. It comprised a very large tract of country, being bounded on the north by the Nepāl territory, on the south by *Sarkārs* Hājīpur and Monghyr, and on the east by *Sarkārs* Monghyr and Purnea. In other words, it included the

* Reports Arch. Surv. Ind., Vol. XVI.

† Report Arch. Surv. Ind, 1903-04.

present districts of Muzaffarpur and Darbhangā (except the southern portion, which was included in *Sarkār* Hājipur), nearly the whole of Bhāgalpur and a small portion of Monghyr. In the early days of British administration, it formed a huge district covering the present districts of Muzaffarpur and Darbhangā, a large part of Bhāgalpur, *parganas* Kashmār in the south-east corner of Sāran, and *pargana* Bhads Bhusari in the south-western corner of Monghyr. The head-quarters of this district remained at Muzaffarpur, but various transfers of territory were made until the area of Tirhut coincided with that of Muzaffarpur, and Darbhangā. It was divided into two in 1875, the western portion being constituted the district of Muzaffarpur, and the eastern and larger portion being formed into the district of Darbhangā.

INDEX.

A.

Administration, land revenue, 113-123; early English, 113-114; general, 124-130; of justice, 127-129.
Administrative charges and staff, 124.
Afghāns, settlement of, 19, 20; revolt of, 20.
Agarwālas, 95.
Aghani crops, 53; as affected by rainfall, 50.
Aghani rice, 54.
Agriculture, 49-63; general conditions, 49-53.
Agricultural classes, 90.
Ahalyāsthān, 141.
Ahiāri, 12, 141.
Akhtiārpur, 138.
Alāpur *pargana*, 60, 151.
Ali Vardi Khān, 20.
Alluvial formation of district, 5.
Andhrā Thārhi, 16.
Anti-kine-killing agitation, 31.
Arboriculture, 110-111.
Arhar, cultivation of, 55.
Artisans, wages of, 84.
Arts and industries, 90-94.
Asāmiwār system of cultivation, 106.

B.

Bābhans, 38.
Bachaur *pargana*, 62, 151.
Bachwāra, 111.
Bāghmati river, 4, 151; floods of, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68; ferries in, 112.
Bāghmati, Little, river, 66, 67, 146, 151.
Baherā, 141; rainfall of, 10; dispensary at, 47, 48; thāna at, 129.
Bairiyā, 16.
Bakhtiyārpur, 153.
Balān river, 4, 151, 155; floods of, 67.
Balrājpur, 141-142.
Balsundri soil, 50, 51.
Banauli, 17.
Bāngar soil, 50, 51.
Barley, cultivation of, 56.
Barnawārs, 95.
Basārh, 12, 13, 14.
Bāsdeopur, 142-143.
Batāi system of rent payment, 80-81.
Bayā river, 3, 155.
Bāzidpur, 112.
Bengal and North-Western Railway, 111.
Benipati, dispensary at, 47, 48; thāna at, 129.
Berautpur, 143.
Bhadoi crops, 53; as affected by rainfall, 50; soils suitable for, 51.
Bhadoi rice, 54.
Bhāoli system of rent payment, 81.
Bharwāra *pargana*, 60, 143.
Bhāti Balān river, 4, 151.
Bhātā land, 51.
Bihula river, 67.
Bikauwā Brāhman, 37.
Bilauti river, 67.
Birth-rate, 42-43.
Bisaul, 12.
Bisfi, 18.
Blanket weaving, 94.
Blindness, prevalence of, 45-46.
Botany, 5-7.
Boundaries of the district, 1.
Brāhmans, 36-39; practice of polygamy, 37.
Brass, manufacture of, 94.
Bridges, 110.

Bubonic plague, 45.
Buddhism, 13-15.
Burglary, prevalence of, 129.
Burh Gandak, 3-4, 146; tributaries of, 4.

C.

Calamities, natural, 67-79.
Carts, 111.
Cash rents, 81-82.
Castes, principal, 36-41.
Cataract, prevalence of 46.
Cattle, 62-63; diseases of, 63.
Census of 1901, 23-25.
Cesses, revenue from, 124.
Chaghūs carts, 111.
Chak Mani *pargana*, 142.
Chamārs, 40.
Champani carts, 111.
Chandra Jhā, 29.
Character of the people, 29-30.
Chaukidārs, 129.
Chaurs (or marshes), 2-3.
Chedi kings, rule of, 15.
Chikna soil, 50.
China, cultivation of, 55.
Chinese pilgrims, visits of, 14-15.
Cholera, epidemics of, 44.
Christians, 30.
Civil justice, administration of, 127-128.
Climate, 8-9.
Commerce, 94-95.
Commercial classes, 90; centres, 95.
Communication, means of, 109-112.
Configuration of district, 2.
Conveyances, 111.
Cotton, cultivation of, 59; weaving, 90, 93-94.
Country spirits, manufacture of, 125; consumption of, 125.
Courts, Civil and Criminal, 127-128.
Crime, 128-129.
Criminal justice, administration of, 128.
Crocodiles, 8.
Crops, principal, 53, 55, 56; food, 53-56; non-food, 57-59.
Cultivation, extension of, 60-62; improved methods of, 62. *See* also Agriculture.

D.

Dafadārs, 129.
Dalsingh Sarai, 95; dispensary at, 47, 48; establishment of indigo factory at, 97; thāna at, 129; school at, 137.
Darbhangā, origin of name, 1
Darbhangā Rāj, 143-146.
Darbhangā sub-division, 146; indigo factories in, 108.
Darbhangā town, 147-149; rainfall of, 10; hospital at, 47, 48; district jail at, 129; municipality at, 134; schools at, 136, 139; population of; 148; water-supply of, 148.
Darbhangi Khān, 1.
Dāūd Khān, revolt of, 19.
Deaf-mutism, prevalence of, 45.
Death-rate, 42-43.
Debhars, 36.
Density of population, 25-26.
Deodha, 151.
Deohars, 36.
Deokali, 141.
Devanāgari character, 28.
Dhanespur, 3, 155.
Dhānkar land, 51.
Dhānuks, 40.
Dhaus river, 4, 67, 151; scheme for irrigation from, 78.
Dhīmars, 36.
Dhunīās, 36.
Dighrā, schools at, 137, 140.
Diseases, principal, 43-46; cattle, 63.
Dispensaries, 47-48.
Distilleries, 125.
District Board, 131-133.
District staff, 128.
Doāb of Bāghmati and Little Gandak, 2.
Domestic animals, 62-63.
Dosādhs, 40.

Drainage lines, 2, 3, 64.
Dubhī, fair at, 95.

E.

Early English administration, 20-22, 113-114.
Early historic period, 12-13.
Early settlements of revenue, 113, 116.
Education, 136-140; secondary, 136-138; primary, 138; female, 139-140; Muhammadan, 139.
Educational staff, 136.
Ekkas, 111.
Emigration, 26.
Enhancement of rents, 82-83.
Enteric fever, 44.
Estates, partition of, 118-119; number of, 118, 119.
Excise, administration of, 125-126; revenue, incidence of, 125.
Exports, 94-95.

F.

Factories, 94. *See* also Indigo factories.
Fairs, 95; at Ahiāri, 141; at Jiwachh, 150; at Kakraul, 150; at Mālinagar, 153; at Saurāth, 156; at Sīlānāth, 156.
Famines, 70-79; of 1866, 70-71; of 1874, 71-72; scarcity of 1876, 72-73; scarcity of 1889, 73; scarcity of 1892, 73; of 1897, 74-77; of 1896, 69-70, 77; liability to, 77-78; protective schemes, 78-79.
Famine prices, 69, 71, 86-87.
Famine relief, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 76.
Fauna, 7-8.
Female education, 139-140.
Ferries, 112, 132.
Fever, prevalence of, 43; types of, 43; statistics of, 48.
Fibre crops, cultivation of, 59.
Finance, 124-127.
Firoz Shāh, invasion of, 18.
Fish, 8.
Floods, 64-70; of 1893, 65-66; of 1898 66-67; of 1902, 67-68; of 1906, 68-70.
Fly-shuttle looms, 93, 94.
Food crops, 53-56.
Fruits, 59-60.

G.

Game birds, 8.
Gandak, Little, 3-4, 64, 146, 153; floods of, 65, 67, 68.
Gangā Sāgar, 16.
Ganges river, 3; navigation on, 112.
Gangeyadeva, rule of, 15.
Gānja, consumption of, 126.
Gareris, 94.
Gāzi cloth, weaving of, 93.
General administration, 124-130.
Geology, 4-5.
Ghiās-ud-dīn-Iwaz, invasion of, 15.
Girls' schools, 139-140.
Goālās, 39-40.
Goitre, prevalence of, 45.
Government estates, 119.
Gram, cultivation of, 56.
Grand, Francois, introduction of indigo manufacture by, 97; first Collector of Tirhut, 114-116.
Grazing grounds, 62.
Guru training schools, 138.

H.

Hāji Ilyās, rule of, 18.
Hājipur-Bachwāra branch railway line, 111.
Hara Singh Deva, 16, 17, 37, 38.
Harāhi tank, legend of, 147-148.
Hardāspur, 112.
Harlākhi, 150.
Harvest festivals, 34.
Hathiyā rains, 49, 54, 55.
Hayā Ghāt, 68, 112, 146.
Health, public, 42-48.
Hemp drugs, consumption of, 125, 126.

High schools, 136-137.
Hinduism, 30.
Hindus, number of, 30.
Hirni, 4.
History of Darbhangā, 11-22; summary of, 22.
Hiuen Tsiang, travels of, 14, 15; account of Vaisāli by, 14.
Holdings, size of, 89.
Holi festival, 35.
Honorary Magistrates, 128.
Hospitals, 46-47.
Hostels and boarding houses, 139.
Humidity, 9.
Husainpur, 150.

I.

Immigration, 26.
Imports, 94, 95.
Incidence of rent, 82; of land revenue, 119-120; of municipal taxation, 133.
Income-tax, 126.
Indebtedness, 88.
Indian corn, cultivation of, 56; prices of, 85, 86, 87.
Indigo, cultivation of, 100-103; soils and manures, 100-101; seed, 101; colouring matter, 101; area under cultivation, 99.
Indigo, manufacture of, 102-103; steeping, 102; oxidation or beating process, 102; lime and ammonia process, 102; boiling and final preparation, 102-103.
Indigo factories, establishment of, 98; landed interests of, 103-105; systems of cultivation by, 105-106; list of, 108.
Indigo industry, 97-108; progress of, 97-100; decline of, 99-100; influence of, 106-108.
Indigo Planters' Association, establishment of, 99.
Industrial classes, 90; schools, 138.
Industries, 90-94.
Inundations. *See* Floods.
Insanity, prevalence of, 46.
Irrigation, 51-53; schemes of, 78-79.

J.

Jabdi *pargana*, 62, 151.
Jagban, 12.
Jaidādi tenancy, 123.
Jails, 129-130.
Jainism, 13, 14.
Jalā, 146.
Jalwāra, 44.
Jamunā river, 67.
Jamwāri river, 4.
Janaka, king, 11.
Janakpur 11, 14, 31, 32.
Janerā, cultivation of, 55.
Jarail *pargana*, 142.
Jaynagar, 21, 149; railway line to, 111.
Jhamwāri river, 3, 4, 155.
Jhanjhārpur, 94, 65, 110, 149.
Jitwārpur, establishment of indigo factory at, 97.
Jiwachh, 150.
Jogiāra, 111; school at, 137.
Jolāhās, 36.
Jolāhā Boli dialect, 28.
Judicial staff, 127.
Justice, administration of, 127-129.

K.

Kaithi character, 28.
Kakraul, 12, 150.
Kalyā Ghāt, 111.
Kamlā river, 4, 64, 146, 151; irrigation from, 51, 52; floods of, 65, 66, 67, 68; scheme for irrigation from, 78-79.
Kamlā-Tiljugā river system, 3, 4.
Kamtaul, 4, 95, 111, 112; establishment of indigo factory at, 97.
Kapileswar, fair at, 95, 150.
Karai river, 4, 146, 151.
Kasarwānis, 95.
Kathbaniās, 95.
Katkasā leases, 104.
Kewats, 36.
Khagariā, 4.

Khajauli, dispensary at, 47, 48; thāna at, 129.
Khanwā Ghāt, 111.
Kharaul grass, 59.
Khattris, 95.
Khatwes, 36.
Khesāri, cultivation of, 55.
Khokti, cotton fabrics, 93.
Khushki system of cultivation, 106.
Kishanpur, 68.
Kodo, cultivation of, 55.
Koiris, 40.
Kosala, kingdom of, 12.
Kunjrās, 36.
Kurmis, 36.
Kurtauli leases, 105, 123.

L.

Labour, wages of, 84; employed by indigo factories, 107.
Lac manufacture, 94.
Ladaniā, 151.
Lahera Rājā, 16.
Laheriā Sarai, 147-149; veterinary dispensary at, 63.
Laheris, 94.
Lakshimā Thākurāni, 17, 28.
Lakshmana Sena era, 15.
Lamkhā, 151.
Land, transfer of, 121, 122, 123; measures of, 96.
Landed interests of indigo factories, 103-105.
Landlords, 120-121.
Land revenue, administration of, 113-123; growth of, 119; incidence of, 119-120.
Land tenures, 121-122; held by indigo factories, 103-105.
Languages, 27-28.
Leases of land to indigo factories, 103, 104.
Legend of Ahalyāsthān, 141; of Balrājpur, 141-142; of Bāsdeopur, 142; of Darbhangā town, 147-148; of Jaynagar, 149; of Lehrā, 150; of Singiā, 156; of Videhas, 11.
Lehrā, 150.
Lichchhavis, 12.
Literate population, 140.
Literature, 28.
Litigation, growth of, 126, 128.
Little Balān river, 151.
Little Bāghmati river, 4, 66, 67, 146, 151; tributaries of, 4.
Little Gandak river, 3-4, 64, 112, 149, 153; tributaries of, 4; floods of, 65, 67, 68.
Local Boards, 133.
Local Self-Government, 131-135.
Looms, improvement of, 93-94.

M.

Madhepur, 151; dispensary at, 47, 48.
Madhubani Bābus, 80.
Madhubani subdivision, 150-151; indigo factories in, 108.
Madhubani town, 151-152; rainfall of, 10; hospital and dispensaries at, 47, 48; sub-jail at, 130; municipality at, 134-135; schools at, 136, 138.
Madhwārpur, 151.
Magadha, 12.
Māgardihi Ghāt, 112.
Mahādeonāth fair, 95.
Mahavira Vardhamāna, 13.
Maithil Brāhmans, 27, 37, 38.
Maithili dialect, 27, 28.
Maize, cultivation of, 56; prices of, 85, 86.
Makai, cultivation of, 56; prices of, 85, 86.
Malarial fever, 43.
Mālikānā tenures, 122.
Mālinagar, 152.
Mallāhs, 41.
Malmal, dispensary at, 47, 48.
Manbodh Jhā, 28.
Mango groves, 59; *mock marriages of*, 35-36.

Manjhol's carts, 111.
Mankhap system of rent payments, 81.
Manufactures, 90-94.
Manures, 62; used for indigo cultivation, 100, 101.
Marāthās, 20.
Marua, cultivation of, 56; prices of, 85, 86, 87.
Masuri, cultivation of, 55.
Material condition of the people, 87-89.
Matiyāri soil, 50.
Means of communications, 109-112; roads, 109-111; railways, 111-112; water, 112; postal, 112.
Measures, 96.
Mediæval history, 15.
Medical aspects, 42-48; institutions, 47-48; statistics, 48.
Menlārpur, 59.
Middle English schools, 137.
Middle Vernacular schools, 137.
Migration, 26.
Missions, Christian, 30.
Mithilā, 11, 22, 27, 118, 152.
Mohiuddinnagar, 155.
Money orders, 112.
Monsoon rainfall, 9-10.
Mortgages of land, 88, 104, 122.
Motiā cloth, weaving of, 93.
Muhammadan governors of Tirhut, 18-20.
Muhammadan period, history of, 15.
Muhammadan religion, 30.
Muhammadans, invasions of, 15, 18, 19; number of, 30; education among, 139.
Mūng, cultivation of, 55.
Municipalities, 133-135.
Musahars, 34-36.
Mustard, cultivation of, 57.
Mutiny of 1857, 22.

N.

Nāgarbasti, 152.
Nandini, dispensary at, 47, 48.
Narahiā, 95, 112, 152; dispensary at 47, 48; school at, 136.
Narhan, 112; dispensary at, 47 48; school at, 137.
Natal indigo seed, 99, 101.
Natural calamities, 64-79.
Natural divisions of district, 2.
Nausātha, system of rent payment, 80.
Navigation, 112.
Nepāl, connection of Simrāon dynasty with, 17.
Nepalese incursions, 21.
Nigranthas, 13.
Nirmāli, 110.
Non-food crops, 57-59.
Non-occupancy ryots, rents paid by, 80 81; land held by, 123.
Nuniās, 92.

O.

Oats, cultivation of, 55.
Occupancy ryots, rent paid by, 80, 81; land held by, 122-123.
Occupations of the people, 90.
Oil-seeds, cultivation of, 57.
Operations, statistics of surgical, 48.
Opium, cultivation of, 57-58; consumption of, 126.
Out-posts, police, 129.

P.

Pachhi, *pargana*, 60.
Pains, irrigation from, 51, 52, 79.
Pāla kings, rule of, 15.
Pāli, 146.
Pandaul, 112, 146, 151; indigo factory at, 98.
Pānjūrās, 38.
Parganas, 16.
Partition of estates, 118-119.
Pasturage, 62.
Patahi, 138.
Pathāns, settlement of, 19, 20.
Patwāris, 16.

People, the, 23-41; character of, 29-30; material condition of, 87-89.
Permanent settlement, 116-117.
Permanent tenures, 121.
Permanently settled estates, number and revenue of, 119.
Phulhar, 11.
Phulparās thāna, 128.
Physical aspects, 1-10.
Pipra Ghāt, fair at, 95.
Plague, 44-45; types of, 45.
Planters, influence of, 107-108.
Ploughmen's begging movement, 31.
Police administration, 129.
Poppy, cultivation of, 57, 58.
Population, growth of, 23; census of, 1901, 23-25; density of, 25-26; rural, 27; urban, 27.
Post offices, 112.
Postal communications, 112.
Pounds, 132.
Prehistoric period, 11-12.
Prices, 85-87; in famines, 69, 71, 86-87
Primary education, 138; schools, 138.
Produce rents, 80.
Professional classes, 90.
Proprietary interests, 120-121.
Pūsa, 95, 112, 152-154; dispensary at, 47, 48.

R.

Rabi crops, 51, 53; as affected by rainfall, 50.
Rahikā, school at, 137.
Railways, 111-112.
Railway workshops, 94.
Rainfall, 9-10; in relation to agriculture, 49; statistics of, 10.
Rājnagar, 112.
Rājputs, 36.
Rates of rent, 81, 82.
Registration, 127.
Registry offices, 127.
Relief works in famines, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 76.
Religions, 30.
Religious movements, 30-32; festivals, 32-36; fairs, 95.
Rents, 80-83; in kind, 80; in cash, 81-82; enhancement of, 82-83; rates of, 81, 82.
Rent-free tenures, 122.
Rent-paying tenures, 121.
Rent suits, number of, 128.
Reota, fair at, 95.
Resumption proceedings, 117-118.
Revenue of the district, 124-127; land revenue, 119; cesses, 124; excise, 125-126; stamps, 126; income-tax, 126.
Revenue administration, 113-123.
Revenue, assessments of, 113.
Revenue-free estates, number of, 119.
Revenue-free grants, 117, 118.
Revenue history, general survey of, 113.
Rhea, cultivation of, 59.
Rice, cultivation of, 54-55; prices of, 85, 86, 87.
Riots, 129.
River system, 3.
River worship, 4.
Roads, 109-111.
Road and Public Works Cesses, 124.
Rural population, 27.
Rusera, 154; rainfall of, 10; dispensary at, 47, 48; municipality at, 135; projected railway line to, 112; thāna at, 128.
Ryots, rent paid by, 80, 81.
Ryots at fixed rates, 81; land held by, 122.
Ryoti interests, held by indigo factories, 105.

S.

Sadua-patua leases, 104.
Saggar carts, 111.
Sakri, 110, 111; dispensary at, 47, 48.
Sale of land, 88.
Saltpetre, manufacture of, 91-92.
Samastipur subdivision, 154-155; indigo factories in, 108.

Samāstipur town, 155; rainfall of, 10; hospital at, 47, 48; railway works at, 83; sub-jail at, 129, 130; municipality at, 135; schools at, 136, 137.
Sanitation, 46-47.
Sankarpur, 142.
Saraisa *pargana*, 57.
Sattas, 106.
Saurāth, 38, 95, 156.
Savings Bank, 112.
Sāwān, cultivation of, 55.
Scarcity. *See* Famines.
Schools, 136-140; High schools, 136-137; Middle English, 137; Middle Vernacular, 137-138; Primary, 138; Special, 138.
Secondary education, 136-138.
Sena kings, rule of, 15.
Service tenures, 122.
Settled ryots, rents paid by, 80, 81.
Settlements, early, 113, 114, 116; permanent, 116-117; later, 120.
Sex, statistics of, 26-27.
Sharanāmas, 83.
Shareholders of estates and tenures, number of, 124.
Sheikhs, 36.
Silānāth, 156; fair at, 95.
Simrāon dynasty, rule of, 15-17.
Sinduriās, 95.
Singheswarsthān, 141.
Singiā, 146, 156.
Singiā Ghāt, 112.
Sitā manure, use of, 101.
Siva Singh, rule of, 17, 28.
Small-pox, epidemics of, 45.
Soils, 50-51; suitable for indigo cultivation, 100, 101.
Special schools, 138.
Spirits, consumption of, 125.
Stamps, revenue from sale of, 126.
Statistics of rainfall, 10; medical, 48; of surgical operations, 48; of fever, 48; of occupations, 90.
Subdivision of proprietary interests, 120-121.
Subdivisions of the district, 124.
Sub-infeudation, 121.
Subsistence holding, size of, 89.
Sugar, manufacture of, 92-93; mills, 62 refineries, 93, 98.
Sugarcane, cultivation of, 58-59.
Sultānpur, fair at, 95.
Surveys, 120.

T.

Tājpur, 156-157; dispensary at, 47, 48; school at, 137.
Tanks, irrigation from, 53; mock marriages of, 36.
Tāntis, 36.
Tārī, consumption of, 125.
Taxation, incidence of municipal, 133.
Telegraph offices, 112.
Telis, 36.
Temperature, 9.
Temporary tenures, 121-122.
Tenants, 122.
Tenure-holders, land held by, 121.
Tenures of land, 121-122; held by indigo factories, 103-105.
Thākur dynasty, rule of, 17-18.
Thānas, police, 128.
Thatching grass, 59.
Thikā leases, 103.
Thikādārs, 121.
Tilakeswar, 4, 64.
Tiljugā river, 4, 61, 67, 146, 151.
Tinkathiā leases, 104-105.
Tirabhukti, ancient name of Tirhut, 13, 14, 157.
Tirhut, 1, 2, 5, 23, 157-158; first Collector of, 114-116.
Tirhutiyā dialect, 72.
Tirsat *pargana*, 141.
Tiwārs, 97.
Tobacco, cultivation of, 57.
Topography, 1.
Towns 27.

Tracts of fertility, 50.
Trade, 94-95; centres of, 95.
Trading classes, 95.
Transfer of land, 88, 121, 122, 123.
Trees, 5-6.
Tree-daubing mystery, 31-32.
Tughlak Shāh, invasion of, 15, 16.

U.

Under-ryots, rents paid by, 80, 81; land held by, 123.
Under-tenures, 122; held by indigo factories, 104.
Urban population, 27.
Urid, cultivation of, 55.
Usar soil, 51.

V.

Vaccination, 47.
Vaisāli, 12, 13-15; Buddha's visit to, 13; Buddhist Council at, 13; Hiuen Tsiang's account of, 14.
Vegetables, 59-60.
Veterinary institutions, 63.
Videhas, 11.
Vidyāpati Thākur, 17, 18, 28.
Villages, 27.
Vital statistics, 42-43.
Vrijjians, 13.

W.

Wages, 83-85; in towns, 83, 84; in villages, 84.
Wārisnagar, thanā at, 129.
Water communications, 112.
Weights, 96.
Wells, irrigation from, 51, 52.
Wheat, cultivation of, 56.
Wild animals, 7-8.
Winter rice, 54.
Women, education of, 139-140.
Written character, 28.

Y.

Yājnavalkya, 11, 12.

Z.

Zarpeshgi leases, 104.
Zirāat, system of cultivation, 106.

B. S. Press—10-4-1906—10306—521—E. J. E.